TOLEDO WEEKLY BLADE

VOL. XLIX. TOLEDO, OHIO, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1881 NO. 8

Poetry.

For the Blade.

PLUCK AND LUCK.

BY HATTIE Q. COVEY.

There is more in pluck than there is in luck.
You will find this wide world over,
While thousands are born to the hard-work fold,
But a few inherit the "clover."

And richer far than the millionaire,
Is he who is ever willing
To work with honest and faithful hands,
Tho' his pocket holds not a shilling.

'Tis earnest labor more than wealth
That keeps the old world moving;
And he has the right to the name of rich,
Who that right by work is proving.

For riches are won by steady work
And quiet calculation;
Poor he'll remain, who waits for wealth
From fickle Luck's creation.

Luck waits for "something to turn up,"
With idle handed yearning;
While Pluck, with ever busy hands,
The something is upturning.

Richland Grove, Ill.

Our Story Teller.

A PESCADERO PEBBLE.

BY ISABEL HAMMELL RAYMOND.

It was only a bit of rose-pink cornelian, wave-worn to a perfect oval, and holding in its translucent depths a gleam almost jewel-like in luster; but the palm of the little hand in which it lay was as delicately molded and as rosy pink as itself; and when the owner of the palm, looking up from under her broad beach hat with a charming air of confidence in his sympathy, asked Mr. Bradford, "*Isn't* it lovely?" it was small wonder that he, being half artist and wholly human, and taking into his survey, besides the pebble, the whole dainty figure in its blue yatching suit, crowned by a rose-bud face lit by sweet brown eyes, should answer quite as fervently as she expected.

"It is, indeed, *very* lovely."

If his reply had reference *only* to the cornelian, it was rather a generous concession on his part, for, though Pescadero pebbles are rare and lovely, they can hardly be of absorbing interest to a man who had bartered with Cingalese pearl divers for their choicest "finds," had hunted for moon-stones and white sapphires under Indian suns, had braved many a mild Baltic storm with the hardy gatherers of stores of yellow amber, and had fought less successfully, if not less gallantly, for the rarer and lovelier blue amber against the rapacity of bronzed Catanian Jews.

But, whether he praised the pebble for its own pink beauty, or with a mental reservation in favor of the fair maid who held it, there he lay, in true Pescadero fashion—six feet of gray tweed stretched at full length along the beach—peking over the multi-colored gravel with a shapely sun browned hand, occasionally holding up a bright bit for Miss Brenton's inspection, and talking to her, the while, of strange shores on the farther side of the blue water whose white crests slipped so gently up the shore and broke in soft and rhythmic murmurs at their feet.

Miss Brenton was a good listener, having learned, during her short life, some valuable lessons in the art of putting herself in the background. Indeed, for a young lady who had recently been graduated with many honors and yards of white organdie at a fashionable seminary, and who awaited only the coming season for her introduction into a brilliant San Francisco circle, she retained her native modesty and lack of self-consciousness in a very creditable degree. So, with a few well-put questions and a large amount of appreciative silence, she had completely charmed away the slight film of cool indifference with which Mr. Bradford liked to believe that he concealed from the world a naturally enthusiastic character, and it was hard to say which of the two enjoyed most his charming talk of his wandering during some months before in Oriental lands.

But salt air begets appetite, and a delightful drive along a tree-lined mountain road in Java, behind half a-dozen pairs of the little native ponies, was not disagreeably interrupted by the shrill cries of "Lunch!" and "Chowder!" which rose above the soft booming of the waves. Then a querulous voice called:

"Pauline, dear, come and help me."

And Miss Brenton and Mr. Bradford hastened toward two elderly ladies, who, seated upon carriage-robes out of reach of the waves, had been comfortably "picking pebbles" under the shadow of a great umbrella. Miss Brenton took possession of a rather faded, artificial looking little person, whose numerous belongings were widely scattered; but Pauline successfully rescued her veil from the wind, her bottle of pebbles from overturning, and her shawl and umbrella from other disasters, while she offered her arm, saying, cheerily:

"I suppose you're quite ready for this famous chowder, Aunt Nellie?"

"Oh, dear, yes, and half famished for the last hour," grumbled Aunt Nellie; "and now we've got to cross this dreadful beach that nearly covers one's feet at every step. I've fifty pebbles, at least, in my boots now. I'm sure I can't see why they spread the lunch away up under that bluff!"

"That's because the tide is coming in, and you wouldn't relish salt-water in your chowder, you know, auntie."

"Well, I dare say they have made the tea of salt water, because where are they to get any other?"

"Oh, I fancy they wouldn't forget that part of it. I saw two great demijohns in the wagon, so I think your tea will be all right."

And so at last they reached the bluff, where Aunt Nellie was seated upon a drift-wood log, after a deal more of the same sort of complaint.

Meantime, Mr. Bradford, unmindful neither of the aunt's *ennyance* nor of the niece's patience therewith, had appropriated the other old lady, a stately little woman, whose sweet face, crowned with its puffs of silvery white hair, was, so far in the young man's life, the dearest face in the world to him. Under the cliff arose the blue smoke of a drift-wood fire, and near it stood a rude table, and toward this the people were coming from all over the little cove, for this was a field-day at the beach; and instead of the usual private and exclusive baskets of cold lunch, there was to be a chowder, made under the immediate supervision of a distinguished epicure from "the city,", with Mrs Swanton as assistant. The season was a good one, Swanton House and outlying cottages being full to overflowing, and more than the usual spirit of good feeling and *camaraderie* seemed to exist among the guests. So there had been surf-fishers out since early morning, and a magnificent catch of red and blue-rock cod—worthy, in their silvery beauty, of a Brockes to immortalize them—was slowly simmering itself into a most toothsome mixture, while an aroma of hot tea and coffee, and a subdued popping of corks, added to the conviviality of a very successful day.

After lunch, there was more pebble-hunting, and much scrambling over rocks and cliffs in search of the dainty wild-flowers and hardy, sweet little strawberries that grow on the breezy uplands above the cliffs.

But for Pauline there was little more hilarity of any sort, for Mrs. Hasbrook grew more exacting as she waxed weary, and her unreasonable and unreasoning demands upon the girl's strength and patience were aggravating to hear. But Pauline was equal to the occasion in her own cheery fashion, never dreaming that she was a martyr; and if she did think once or twice how pleasant it would be to stroll with Mr. Bradford and his mother at the top of the cliff, she stifled the fancy as ingratitude, for it was quite evident that Aunt Nellie was "coming down" with a sick-headache, and so, of course, not responsible for her ill nature. In fact, Pauline Brenton wasted all her opportunities for being miserable in the most provoking way.

"So exasperatingly cheerful!" complained her room-mate at school, who never exasperated anybody with *her* cheerfulness.

"Such a rest, such a comfort, as you have been!" whispered the teacher who had charge of her division, when, just before the commencement exercises, Pauline came to her in all her white beauty for a last little "talk."

And so when she came home to Aunt Nellie—Aunt Nellie with her pet sick-headaches, which were an affliction to herself and an infliction to her friends, her querulous temper, and her gift for fault-finding—Pauline, I believe, was not a bit discouraged.

There had been in Mrs. Hasbrook's early life some of those crushing sorrows from which the spirit rises once, perhaps, in a thousand times, triumphant over earthly ills, to live thereafter in an atmosphere already half-heavenly; but more often there remains but the poor, spiritless shadow of the former self to fight the battle with the world, the flesh, and the devil, in a weakened and half conquered fashion. Mrs. Hasbrook was weak enough in body and spirit, and her small vanities had been fostered by the possession of an ample fortune; but, among a number of good deeds which I am sure the recording angel was glad to place to her credit, not the least was the taking of little orphaned Pauline Brenton to her heart and home. Home and love and education she had given her, and Pauline had grown in graces of body and mind, and had cultivated in the genial soil of her nature an old-fashioned flower we call gratitude, and its blossoms, uncommon enough in these days, crowned this rather stylish and modern young lady with a rare and old-time grace.

Truth to tell, Mrs. Hasbrook had some brilliant projects in view for the future of the niece who was rewarding her fostering care so well, and her day-dreams were often of the time when, after a brilliant season or two in California, they two should go abroad—to "dear, delightful Paris," of course; and, having in fancy once crossed the Atlantic, she found it easy, also in fancy, to gain a foothold in the very citadel of the *ancien regime*, and, after a gorgeous campaign in costumes from Worth and Pingat, accompanied by unlimited diamonds, she always, in these bright visions, married Pauline to a nobleman—nothing less than the bluest blood would do; for Aunt Nellie like many very good and very wealthy Californians, though a native republican, was, *au fond*, the fiercest of aristocrats. As for the money, she would reflect with a shrug of satisfaction, that did not matter. She had always intended those shares of Segregated Maryland and that gold mine in Amador for Pauline's *dot*, and she rather fancied they would offset several gallons of blue blood.

But often, alas, the old lady would arouse from these rosate reflections to find unconscious Pauline singing away at some plebeian employment—perhaps the mending of her own dainty silken hose, or the concoction of a delectable dessert—in such utter unconcern for this brilliant future of hers that the dreamer of dreams would feel herself to be a much injured party, and would therefore render herself so obnoxious for the rest of the day that poor Pauline, unconscious of offense, could only, in charity, lay the blame at the door of her *bete noire*, sick-headache.

For, with uncommon good sense, Mrs. Hasbrook had not as yet imparted those wonderful schemes to her niece, who, being fond of her books, her music, her pets, and even of her loving services to her aunt, had not yet begun to trouble her small head about fortunes or husbands, or any of the more serious matters of life.

While I have been telling you all this, Mrs. Bradford and her son have been enjoying their stroll at the top of the cliff, watching the groups of busy people, breathing the salt, sweet air, and talking together with a loving confidence that nothing has ever yet interrupted.

"So, little mother," Bradford was saying, "you like Pescadero?"

"Indeed I do, Bruce. It is restful and quiet here, and, after the regular California round, so refreshing not to be called upon constantly to admire something that is higher or deeper or larger than anything else of its kind in the known world."

"That's so," said Bradford, with a laugh. "I knew there was a charm about it, though I couldn't have expressed it so well. Nice people here, too. Don't you like little Miss Brenton?"

"Yes"—emphatically. "She is a dear girl—quite one of the old-fashioned sort; but, Bruce, she's a martyr. I should be glad to pull her worldly little aunt's blonde curls for her aggravating ways with the poor child."

"Come, come, Dona Quixote, don't you go tilting at a wind-mill. I can't see that the 'poor child' pines much under the treatment. In fact, she's quite blooming, and Coleman, of San Francisco, tells me that Mrs. Hasbrook has done everything for her."

"And so she may. The young lady will be a great credit to her society, and is a perfect slave to her caprices, but—oh, Bruce, how lovely those cloud shadows are drifting over the water, and what a wide and lovely view we have here!"

And so it was. Landward the hills, yellow with barley, blue with the bloom of the flax, or brown with recent plowing, rose and softly swelled into the mountains of the Coast Range, whose utmost hights, crowned with somber red-woods, fringed the blue and lofty sky-line. Seaward there was nothing to break the wide expanse of amethystine sea, save when a great steamer passed noisely on her way to the Orient. And over all this glorious chord of color drifted the constant cloud-shadows of the broken and slowly gathering fog. After a little pause, Mrs. Bradford said:

"I suppose, Bruce, dear, you look for the Lawrences soon?"

"Yes. Lawrence told me they would be down the last of the month," and a long breath, that sounded uncommonly like a sigh of impatience, finished the sentence.

"Miss Lawrence is a very fine young lady, Bruce?"—interrogatively.

"Very"—concisely.

"And they have been very kind to us."

"Certainly; why not, dear?" lighting a fresh cigar.

"And we must show them all the attention we can, you know, when they come."

"Of course, *madame mere*, I shall be as civil as possible."

"But—Bruce—"

"Well, go on, mother. You seem uncommonly bashful," with never a look at the blue eyes trying so hard to find his.

"Well"—desperately—"you won't be so civil, now, Bruce, will you?"

What an amused laugh, he looked down at his poor little victim, and said, saucily:

"You jealous old person! I believe you don't want me to admire anybody but you. But don't you fear, mother mine—at least not in that quarter. Of course, as our banker on this side of the world, Lawrence has been very kind to us, and his wife and daughter also; but, though I don't like to say it, I fancy it is very much a matter of dollars and cents, and I have a feeling that the polish in that family is a sort of top-dressing, as the farmers say. I fear some day we shall see the ugly sub-soil crop up in a very disagreeable way. But come; there are the wagons, and I want you to have a comfortable seat."

After that day at the beach there followed many others, each with its charm of out-door life. Mr. Bradford and his mother, though so devoted to each other, had, apparently, no objection to a quartet, since Mrs. Hasbrook and her niece were nearly always of their party. There were long, still days up in the heart of the Redwoods, where the Pescadero, coming down from the mountains, had worn for itself a lovely path; past the gray and lichened rocks; under giant stems of redwood and fragrant branches of azaleo, ceanothus, and mandrono; where the trout darted through sun-streaked shallows or rested in sherry-brown pools; down, still down, through the sunny ranch-lands, past the village, and so out to sea.

Other days were spent under far-spreading branches of century-old laurels, which grew on the banks of a little tributary of the Pescadero. Here they spread their simple lunch, and read, or talked, or wandered through well-kept fields and orchards, till the sun threw long afternoon shafts of yellow light athwart the branches, or the fog rolled in to drive them home. Sometimes they followed the Butano far up into the fern-loved forest, where the brake grew almost like palm trees, and the dainty maiden-hair ferns, nourished and protected through all the year, spread their branches far out over the water where it fell in sparkling cascades into a crystal-green pool. Oftenest of all they sought the sea—sometimes at the pebble beach; sometimes where the Butano and Pescadero go out together in a broad estuary to the ocean, and where salmon-trout and perch abound; or, farther down, at Pigeon Flint, where long ago on the unfriendly reefs the *Carrier Pigeon* went to pieces—but always they four together, the elder ones tolerating each other till toleration grew into a certain friendliness, the younger ones learning slowly, and of course delightfully, to do much more than tolerate each other. But this old new lesson of loving, to be perfect, must be blindly learned; so these two were for many a long day unconscious of the part they were conning. Pauline only knew that never before had there been so perfect a summer, that the birds sung and the sun shone as in no other year of her life, and that no other valley that wound its sweet, wild way from the heart of the Coast Range down to the sea was half so lovely as that of the Pescadero.

Bradford had drifted down the days and the weeks lazily enough, taking, as was his philosophical way, all possible pleasure and profit from all possible people and circumstances. If he sometimes fretted at his self-imposed inaction, and longed for the busy life of a loved profession once more, his mother never knew it, but he was surprised at himself one day for being piqued into self-justification to Miss Brenton. She had expressed great admiration for some incident of manly energy, and Bradford found himself all at once in the middle of an explanation.

"My mother," said he, "was ordered a year's travel by her physician. I can hardly tell you, Miss Pauline, of all the opportunities I sacrificed when I left my business to take care of itself. I fear you think me a very lazy fellow, but indeed I love work—love it for its own sake and for what it brings, too; but I am determined the dear old lady shall not have her enjoyment clouded by a single thought of sacrifice on my part. This fall finishes our year, and I am taking her home so much improved in health that I am well repaid."

"Ah," said Pauline, with an appreciative look, "but such inaction as that is better and grander than one year's work you have ever done."

If Mr. Bradford had had his mind's eye as wide open as usual, he might have suspected that his satisfaction at Pauline's reply was more intense than that he usually felt at the approval of his lady friends; but it was another day that was to open his eyes to a new fact in his existence.

On this day they had all gone to the beach—Aunt Nellie at first having declared she *would* not, but having finally yielded, like so many others, to the indescribable fascinations that those elusive pebbles possess. At first glance, lying upon the Pescadero beach, with the May sunshine all about you, soft Pacific airs blowing over you, and nothing to do but glean the rarest and loveliest pebbles, seems as near *dolce far niente* as anything in this disappointing world can. But try it all day; lean upon one elbow till it is damp with salt water and blistered by the friction of the gravel, till your spine aches with the unnatural position, and your lips are parched with thirst, while the water-jug stands rods away under the cliff in aggravating coolness, and all about you people are finding lovely pink or red cornelians, bits of translucent amber-colored quartz, and "opals" which almost equal the genuine in their fire and luster, while *your* fingers, poke as they may, bring up only the commonest brown or black gravel stones—and see if you do not go back to the hotel at night, tired, cross, and firmly determined to spend the remainder of your time hunting ferns in the Pescadero woods or trout in the Pescadero waters, leaving the beach to those who like it. Yet, after you have bathed and dined, and come out upon the twilight-haunted porch, or, if the fog has come in, to the hotel parlor with its blazing live-oak fire, where people are exhibiting and expatiating upon the day's treasure-trove, you are once more fascinated, and the small miseries of the past are forgotten in an avaricious desire to outstrip the others. And when the morning comes, and the great omnibus dashes up to receive its indiscriminate load of young and old, lunch-baskets and surf-lines, pet dogs and babies, you are one of the first and fiercest; and with your wide-mouthed bottle clutched tightly in your hand you are off, leaving Pescadero woods and waters to keep their treasures for another day, while you have one more "try" for that ideal pebble, which, every time you closed your eyes last night, stood out against the dark in all its beautiful and elusive perfection.

Aunt Nellie, after many false starts, had at last got herself settled to her apparent satisfaction; and Pauline, seeing her so contented, and that Mr. Bradford and his mother were near, said to her:

"Auntie, I've a fancy for going up the shore a little way, if you don't mind?"

Auntie was aggrieved at once.

"Well, I suppose you can, my dear, if you wish; but, before you go, just bring me a cup of water, and—fasten a pin in this veil, and I'm sure the tide will be up soon, and I shall have to move—oh, dear! you've upset that bottle."

Pauline, with a comical look of dismay, was about to give up her little walk, when Mrs. Hasbrook found her bottle right side up, and a cup of water at her very lips, while Mr. Bradford was saying, quietly:

"If you will allow me, Mrs. Hasbrook, I'll see that you are quite comfortable, and I'm sure the walk will do Miss Brenton good."

"Of course," said Aunt Nellie, with a half-sense of her own absurdity, "I shall get along very well, I've no doubt. I'm afraid" she added, plaintively, as Pauline went gratefully off, "I'm afraid I'm a little exacting with Pauline; still, I think it's for her good."

What Mr. Bradford might have thought about that he did not say; but he took such good care of Aunt Nellie that she was quite happy and cheerful till the tide really did begin to come in, and then she began to worry about Pauline. She was quite sure she would either be drowned or get her feet wet—one disaster being, apparently, quite as deplorable as the other. Mr. Bradford, with praiseworthy alacrity, offered to go in search of the truant, which offer being accepted, he was off.

Pauline had not wandered far. A little cove, where the rocks shut out everything but the blue water, had attracted her, and happy in the possession of a fascinating book—it was the *Strange Adventures of a Phaton*—she had yielded to a delicious feeling of laziness, and, lying at ease, with as sweet and salt an air about her as ever blew over the Hebrides, and a sea and sky before her that William Black would have loved to picture, she fell into a dreamful sleep, in which she was "Bell," and the blonde head of Mr. Bradford did duty as the "Lieutenant," and they came careering over the Pescadero hills in that identical phaeton, with Mrs. Bradford and Aunt Nellie in the places of Queen Tita and her husband. Oblivious of the incoming tide, she slept—in danger after a while of a thorough wetting, if nothing worse, though the under-tow is strong there, and might have done her deadly harm. At least so it looked to Bruce Bradford, who arrived at the head of the cove just in time to see one great wave recede from her feet, and another, before he could reach her, envelop her wholly in its frothy, cold embrace. With something very cold, very vice-like, and exceedingly novel clutching at his heart, he sprung toward the poor girl, and caught her in his arms, with an exclamation upon his lips, the warmth of which astonished Mr. Bradford himself, as much as it could have done any listener he might have had. If it reached Pauline's ears, it was too much like a part of her ruddy finished dream for her to be certain of it, and when she fairly recovered from her bewilderment, and found herself quite safe, but still encompassed by Mr. Bradford's arm, she gently disengaged herself, saying:

"I think you have saved my life, Mr. Bradford; but I can't thank you now as I should."

He seemed half dazed, but, after a moment's hesitation, said, absently:

"Yes, yes; but you're very damp, you know, and in danger of taking cold. We must get home at once."

This was dreadfully common place for so romantic a situation. Pauline was quite sure the "Lieutenant" would have done better, but as she could only assent to the self-evident truth of the remark, she said, laughingly:

"Yes, I know that Mr. Mantalini would have called me, don't you?" Then, as they dradged briskly on, she added: "Pray, don't let us alarm Aunt Nellie; she will be quite distressed enough as it is."

Mr. Bradford only bowed assent, and hurried her on till they reached the rest of the party, where, after much wringing out of skirts and many explanations, she was put into the wagon and enveloped in all the shawls and robes her escort could beg or borrow. Homeward he was silent as the Sphinx itself, but watchful as possible of her comfort; and when he had seen her to her cottage and ordered fires and hot water, and tea, he took himself off, leaving Pauline to laugh heartily at his overpowering but dumb attentions, for to her young and strong *physique* the adventure was little more than a tonic, though she had been a good deal frightened.

Bradford emerged from his cottage soon after, armed with rod and reel, and betook himself to the brook side, where he had been wont to capture the trout with gratifying success. But it was soon evident that the fish had little to fear from him that day, for he whipped the stream languidly a little, and then gave it up entirely. Throwing himself under the shade of a great buckeye tree, whose fragrant blossoms rained down upon him with every slightest gust, he gave himself up to a rather stormy reverie, if one might judge by the number and frequency of his cigars, and the vigorous and impatient pulls at his long blonde moustache.

To confess the truth, he was regularly appalled at the revelation of the morning. He realized perfectly that if the wave which only drenched Pauline Brenton had carried her back with it out into the infinite unknown there would have gone with her all the light from his life and all the strength from his ambitions; but so far from his plan of life had been thought of love and marriage, except in the far future, that he could not at first give any welcome to this new feeling which already possessed him so wholly. All at once he was startled to find his destiny inextricably complicated with that of this slip of a girl who might or might not care for him, but who in either case could never again, to a nature like his, be as one of the rest of the world. Separate and apart forever would be the slight, dainty figure, the rose bud face and the sweet eyes, from which looked forth he would fain believe, a brave, faithful, and honest soul. Being brave, faithful, and honest himself, there could be but one ending to his reverie, and after more hours than he realized, he took up his homeward way with a definite purpose to woo and win, if possible; and to do him justice he had modesty enough to admit a doubt upon the subject, even to himself. Finding upon his return the subdued bustle attendant upon the arrival of the forenoon stage, "Any passengers?" he inquired of Sam Creaves, a bright youth of sixteen, who attached himself to Pauline in the *role* of youthful adorer.

"Yes, sir," said Sam, "lots. All the Daytons, three or four men, and the Lawrences. Know them, sir?"

"Yes," returned Bradford, concisely, somewhat put out to find his premeditated campaign thus interrupted.

"I say, Sam, could you take these wild flowers to Miss Brenton with my compliments, and ask how she was after her drowning?"

The delighted Sam grasped them valiantly, and strode away, leaving Bradford to go to his room.

After dinner that night, a wonderfully lovely twilight called every one out of doors. Pauline, who had been in close attendance upon Mrs. Hasbrook and her inevitable headache, and had dined in her room, had thrown a light shawl over her shoulders, and seated herself at the door of the cottage. Up and down the long vista of the porches people were passing and repassing, but she enjoyed her solitude and quiet after the day's excitement. Two little words rang in her ears over and over again; and yet had she really heard Mr. Bradford say, "My darling," as he drew her from the water, or was that, too, only a part of her unfinished dream? What a lovely world, she thought; the earth was all in tune with her happy heart. High above Lincoln Hill swung the crescent lamp of a young moon, sending its soft light down through the Lamarque rosevines that shaded the porch, and pencelling their delicate foliage in shadowy lines upon the floor. Up from the garden at her feet floated faint odors of tea rose and mignonette. Beyond the cliff sounded the low monotone of the surf, while some one in the half-lit cottage next door was playing in a dreamy, impromptu way, stringing exquisite bits of Strauss and Gounod and Offenbach upon a thread of dainty modulation, and down from the gate a night bird called from an acacia tree in shrill, sweet tones. It was easy to believe, at least for to-night, that life might hold all sort of sweet possibilities for her.

Just then upon this rose-colored reverie broke the sound of voices in some open window near.

"Yes," some one was saying, "he is a fine fellow, and quite a catch, too, I believe. Miss Lawrence has done well."

"Is it really an engagement; then?" asked another voice.

"I believe so. At least, the Lawrences don't deny it, and Mr. Bradford and his mother were their guests for some time this spring."

"Well, it really is a good thing for Maud Lawrence. She's certainly a trifle *passe*, and might die an 'unappropriated blessing,' you know. I judge he is wealthy, or she would have none of him."

"Oh, yes. There is a handsome family property in New York and on the Hudson and the young man is, besides, a promising lawyer."

And so on—though I doubt if Pauline heard even so much.

She was very glad, she thought to have heard what she did. It was so much better that she should correct that little mistake of hers before she had come believe it true. How fortunate that she had not given away even the least little bit of her heart unasked.

But—with a little shiver—how cold and dark it had grown. She looked for the moon, but its light was quenched in a bank of fog. People were disappearing from the porches, and the player in Mrs. Dayton's cottage had grown lugubrious. He was playing Chopin now, and the muffled drums of the "Marche Funebre" made the heavy air throb with their sorrow. Just as the exquisitely sad *adagio* began, Pauline rose to go in. She would go to sleep. It was good sometimes to forget, and—was this a tear that wet her cheek?

The days that followed were gay with excursions of all sorts, planned for the pleasure of the Lawrences and other new comers. Mr. Bradford, though inclined to perform his social duties to them in his own thorough manner, had no mind that Mrs. Hasbrook or her neice should suffer any neglect. So they were always among the first to be consulted, and it was always evident that some one was looking out thoughtfully for their comfort. Pauline, understanding, as she imagined, the delicacy of feeling that would not allow her little rush-light to be obscured by the rising of the bright particular star, accepted such attentions with good feeling, and gave no time to bitter thoughts. But several refusals were unavoidably given, owing to Aunt Nellie's ailments, so that she really saw very little of Miss Lawrence or of Mr. Bradford's supposed devotion to her. She discovered however, through sundry personal experiences, that the young lady was an adept in that sort of society stiletto practice, which enables people to stab you skillfully in the back while presenting a smiling countenance to you and the rest of the world; though why Miss Lawrence should honor her especially with such attentions, Pauline was too blind to see.

Miss Lawrence's younger brother, one of those unsparing critics we often encounter in the very heart of our own family circle, said to her one morning:

"I say, Maud, I can't see why you waste so much ammunition on that little Miss Brenton. You're uncommonly free with your shot and shell when she's around."

"I can't help your blindness," was the elegant retort. "If you can't see that she is throwing herself directly at Bradford, I can; and that game of unsophisticated innocence is just the one to catch such a man."

"Well, to be candid, sis, if she really entered for the race, I believe her chance would be quite as good as yours. I didn't suppose you were so far gone though."

"You know as well as I do how much I am likely to care for such a strict-laced individual as he is, but the Bradford property and the Bradford diamonds are worth winning, and I mean to do it."

"Then I advise you to be a little more careful. The young gentleman overheard your pointed observation about school-girl impertinence last night, and was furious. By Jove, I didn't know blue eyes could blaze so. Be careful, Maud. Ta'ta."

"If I don't win, *she* shall not," muttered Miss Maud, tragically.

From which bit of conversation it will be seen that Mr. Bradford's suspicion of the latent coarseness in the Lawrence family was not unfolded. It was during a day in the woods that more of the same thing came to the surface.

The excursion on this day was to the Falls of the Butano, and nearly every one was going. As everybody knows, the wagon road comes to an untimely end above Clellan's Mill, and it is customary to make a camp-fire there for those who do not care to attempt the rather severe trail that leads to the falls. Around the fire on this occasion gathered Mrs. Bradford and Mrs. Hasbrook, with several others elderly ladies, and Pauline, insisting that they needed some one to keep the fire and make their tea, decided to stay with them. The loudly expressed disapproval of the pedestrian party at the loss of one of their best walkers had no effect upon her, and she laughingly persisted in her determination, at which Mrs. Bradford expressed her gratification.

"You there are only one of the young people, my dear, who has patience with my fern mania and can tell one from another. Shall we have a little search for them to-day?"

Pauline was only too happy. To Mrs. Bradford, whose motherhood was the strongest part of her nature, all young girls represented, in one way or another, the ever regretted daughter whom Heaven had denied her; so, attracted to Pauline from the first, she had shown her liking generously and freely. The first real revelation of mother tenderness had been to the poor child almost too sweet to be born, and she found herself yielding more and more to it as the days went by. So they set off together very happily, though a little sadly, too, knowing that not many more of these pleasant days could come. The ferns were plenty enough, and tropical in luxuriance. Every uprooted redwood tree left a grotto, which was speedily filled with bark and fern and feathery rush, till it seemed a home fit for the queen of all the fairies, and every fallen log was arched or hidden by the dainty growth. Pauline, with arms and hands full, was still pressing on, eager for more, when a sharp cry of pain stopped her suddenly, and she hurried back a little way, to find Mrs. Bradford lying beside a huge log she had tried to cross alone.

"I think, my dear," she said, faintly, as Pauline bent over her; "that my ankle is sprained. It is the one that has been hurt before."

That it was badly sprained was sure, for Pauline found it already almost impossible to unbutton the boot. How she got the suffering, but brave, old lady back to the fire she hardly knew; but it was done, and, leaving her to the care of the others, she at once took the trail to the falls in search of the son, who would, she knew, be the mother's best physician. In fact, she felt sure, and time proved her right, that it was no trifling accident, and that it was absolutely necessary to get Mrs. Bradford back to the hotel as soon as possible. Over the ground she sped, urged by keenest sympathy, climbing great fallen redwoods, over which she had before been helped most carefully; crushing down the remembrance of various stories she had heard of wild animals met in these woods, that *would* rise up to haunt her; startled, in spite of herself, at the vague, unfamiliar sounds of forest life around her, and feeling keenly how long she was; catching her dress upon brush and brier till it was in tatters; crossing the creek once or twice upon fallen logs at dizzy hights above the water, from one of which she lost her hat, and gave it a farewell glance as it sailed peacefully down the stream; still on, loosing breath as the trail began to ascend, but never wholly losing courage, till at last the loiterers of the party turned to see a little figure flying toward them with disheveled hair blown in tossing tendrils across the flushed face, and garments to whose streaming tatters clung twig and leaf and branch in mad confusion.

Reaching Bruce Bradford, to whose arm Miss Lawrence clung in interesting helplessness, Pauline expended her last remnant of breath in telling him of the accident to his mother. Then came that ugly cropping-up of the genuine Lawrence nature which Bruce had once prophesied to his mother. Realizing that, with all her disadvantages, Pauline had never appeared so absolutely lovable in her life, Maud, half-mad with rage and disappointment, forgot herself entirely, and, clinging still closer to the arm she held, exclaimed, loud enough for every one to hear:

"Don't go one step, Mr. Bradford. I don't believe a word of it. She only wants to get you back to the camp."

Her words were so childishly angry as to be laughable, but Bradford was so agitated that he saw only the spirit that animated them, and, turning his white face toward her while he disengaged his arm, he said, coldly and clearly:

"Miss Brenton is utterly incapable of such deception."

Then, turning to the poor little messenger, who was cruelly hurt by this last and barest thrust, he rapidly and tenderly seated her upon a fallen tree, folded round her one of many offered shawls, and calling her devoted Sammie Greaves, said to him:

"I want you to stay with this lady till she is cool and rested, and then bring her carefully back to the wagons. Will you do this for me, Sam?"

"I'll do it for both of you, sir," said Sam, at the summit of pride and happiness to be serving two of his admirations at once.

Then Bruce, with one lingering look into Pauline's eyes which spoke volumes to her palpitating little heart, and with not a single one of any kind at Miss Lawrence, was off like the wind.

Pauline, half overcome with fatigue, excitement, and indignation, was decidedly on the verge of a good cry, which fact was quite apparent to poor Sam, who was beside himself with distress. What should he do for her? What did people do for weeping damsels, he wondered.

"Miss Pauline, don't now; please don't cry. What shall I get for you?" Then, as a happy thought struck him: "Just wait a minute; I'll get the governor's brandy-flask. I'm sure that will do you good."

Pauline was obliged to politely decline the brandy, but her hearty laugh at the discomfited Sam quelled the impending deluge, and all was well.

I may as well mention here that Miss Lawrence gave orders to her long-suffering and much-enduring parents to secure seats next morning for Santa Cruz and Aptos—that her maiden meditations are still fancy-free, and that she considers Pescadora a very stupid place.

When Mr. Bradford sought an interview with Mrs. Hasbrook upon a subject of much importance to himself, she received him with considerable *hauteur*. It was a coming down, indeed, from that blue-blooded nobleman of her dreams to a mere American, no matter how much of a gentleman he might be, and she felt that for Pauline's sake she ought to hesitate about entertaining his proposals. Bradford, however, being entirely unacquainted with his visionary rival, and not even suspecting that there was one, being, moreover, armed with a knowledge of Pauline's acquiescence in his designs, took such lofty ground of assuming Mrs. Hasbrook's consent to be a foregone conclusion, that she finally yielded with what she considered becoming dignity, and in the days that followed—days of tedious seclusion for poor Mrs. Bradford, whose painful limb was the only shadow in the glowing picture of that summer-time—Aunt Nellie came out gloriously as a gentle nurse, a genial companion, and, best of all, an emancipated martyr, for in all those weeks she forgot to have a sick-headache.

At a merry lunch party given in a hospitable Oakland home to a number of "graduates" from a celebrated seminary there was, of course, a great deal of "Class" gossip. As they lingered over the fruit some one asked:

"Does any one know where Pauline Brenton has been this summer? I've never seen nor heard from her."

"Oh, yes," said another, "she and her aun thave been at Pescadero all the season. Nina Lewis saw them there; and our little Pauline is engaged. What do you think of that?"

Chorus of wonder and delight, finishing with a unanimous, though ungrammatical, "Who to?"

"A Mr. Bradford, a wealthy gentleman from the East, and handsome, too, Nina says."

"I wonder if it is a Mr. Bradford we met at the Lawrences last spring?"

"The same, I think; and, oh, girls! what do you think the ring is?"

"A big solitaire, I suppose, he is so wealthy."

"My dear,"—impressively—"they are rich enough to do without diamonds, if they choose. No! The ring, for Nina saw it, is simply a pink Pescadero pebble!"—*January Californian.*

Case of Water Cure.

San Francisco Post.

Some witty Frenchman excuses his devotion to wine by saying that he doesn't like water because ever since the flood it has tasted of sinners. Up at the McFlippey's boarding house, on Pine street, they recently found the same objection to the liquid with which they washed down their daily hash. In fact so objectionable the sinner ingredient became that an examination was made of the tank on the roof, in which was discovered the body of Mrs. McF's worser half, who had fallen in and been drowned. The widow said she had noticed a singular odor of whisky about the water pitcher for more than a week, but, as she had supposed, the "old man" had been locked up for another month, she hadn't suspected anything out of the way.

A Piece of Southern Stupidity.

Philadelphia Public Ledger.

No hen with one chicken ever made more noise over it than the South has done over the handful of Northern settlers who, most of them) in good faith, and most of them with money in their hands to invest in the land, went down there on an honest errand. Of rascals who made their way South to join forces with Southern and native "scalawag" statesmen like Moses in South Carolina and Wells in Louisiana, the count taken has been like Aaron's rod—it has swallowed up all the rest. Yet these were elements that would have all the sooner been detested and put to rout had a fair settlement of honest carpet-baggers been hospitably discouraged instead of repelled.

For the Blade.

NOT ALL DARKNESS.

BY MOSS ROSE.

They say our world is full of woe,
That crushed and dead are Eden's flowers,
Yet, I believe it not, O, no,
The richest boons may yet be ours.

For though we, neither day nor night,
May see the angel's starry wing,
Nor trailing robe of dainty white,
Nor ever hear the songs they sing,

Yet still our world bears hues of heaven,
And wears far more of light than shade;
The love and trust that God has given,
A paradise of earth has made.

The loved ones 'round about our way
Are spirits pure, and free from guile,
Our life guards still from day to day—
How dear to us a love lit smile.

Thank God, the flowers are not all dead,
That first in Eden had their birth,
That love and faith have never fled,
But still remain to bless our earth.

For the Blade.

SENATORIAL SKETCHES.

BY W. S. TOMPKINS.

Number IV.

O. H. PLATT,

of Connecticut, is described as "a gentleman of sound judgment, familiar with politics, sagacious in conducting them, and in possession of convictions to which he will rigidly adhere."

PRESTON E. PLUMB,

of Kansas, is a very intellectual gentleman, and an excellent soldier, having served with honor in the late rebellion.

JOHN E. PUGH,

of Alabama, who lately succeeded the late Senator Houston, was a merchant when chosen to his present position.

T. F. RANDOLPH,

of New Jersey, is a manufacturer and an inventor, being the originator of the plow which bears his name, and of several other inventions. At the time of his election it was said of him, "He is now evolving from the depths of his inner consciousness an implement for harrowing his political opponents in the Senate."

N. W. RANSOM,

of North Carolina, is pictured as "lean and lank," and is considered an able, though somewhat stern man.

EDWARD H. ROLLINS,

of New Hampshire, is the smallest man in the Senate, and is regarded as the best political organizer in New England.

ELI SAULSBURY,

of Delaware, comes, like his colleague, Bayard, from a political family, several relatives of the same name having preceded him in the Senate.

ALVIN SAUNDERS,

of Nebraska, is a self-made man, receiving only a common public school education.

WILLIAM SHARON,

of Nevada, is, like his colleague, John P. Jones, a very wealthy man, and is, like him, known as a "silver Senator." He is thin and slight, with a sallow, unhealthy complexion, diffident, haggard and silent.

JAMES STATER,

of Oregon, is one of the best, though most unnoticed representative men of the Pacific Coast.

HENRY M. TELLER,

of Colorado, is a well posted man, talks in a high key, in strong, nasal tones, with a nervous, energetic manner.

ALLEN G. THURMAN,

of Ohio, is a rugged-looking man, with a marked face, heavily lined. His hair has hardly yet turned gray; his forehead though not high, is broad; his eyes, deeply set in his head, look clearly out from under thick, overhanging brows; his nose is large, mouth large, lips finely formed, and he wears whiskers but no mustache. The expression of his face is reflective, rather than active; he is a thinker rather than an actor. When speaking in the Senate, he leans forward, earnestly,

THE WEEKLY BLADE.

TOLEDO BLADE CO., Pubr's.

TOLEDO, OHIO, THURSDAY, FEB. 17, 1881.

OUR CLUB LIST.

We have made arrangements with the publishers enabling us to send the BLADE and either of the following publications for the price annexed, (postage prepaid):

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Chimney Corner	4 00	$4 75
Harper's Bazar	4 00	4 75
Harper's Weekly	4 00	4 75
New York Ledger	3 00	4 00
Prairie Farmer	2 00	3 00
Rural New Yorker	2 00	3 50
Scientific American	3 00	4 25
Waverly Magazine	4 00	4 75
Western Rural	2 00	3 00
Chicago Advance	3 00	4 25
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Phrenological Journal	2 00	3 00
The Nursery (Juvenile)	1 50	2 75
American Bee Journal	2 00	2 75
Appleton's Journal	3 00	4 00
Andrews' Bazar	1 00	2 50
Arthurs' Home Magazine	2 25	3 25
Atlantic Monthly	4 00	4 75
Brainard's Musical World	1 50	2 75
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Scribner's Magazine	4 00	4 75

In making this proposition we stipulate that we must receive at the SAME TIME one subscriber to THE BLADE for each copy of any other publication ordered from the list. They need not both be sent to the same person, and even to the same Postoffice, and in renewing their subscriptions, old as well as new subscribers may avail themselves of the offer.

CUTTING THE PLAY.

The Way the "Merchant of Venice" Was Abbreviated.

The nationally gratifying fact that Edwin Booth has just made so palpable a hit in London in "Richelieu," calls to mind, says the San Francisco *News-Letter*, a little story told by our leading star to the writer one Sunday during his visit here, while taking a look at the Golden Gate from the lantern of the Point Bonita light house.

"Once, during the days of my early struggles in the profession," said Booth, "and while we were barn-storming down in Virginia, an odd thing happened, which illustrates the shifts to which the 'poor player' was then put in order to get along. We were playing—'showing' they called it then—one night at a little place called Lee's Landing, and the tobacco warehouse we had improvised into a theater was crowded with planters for miles around. We had arranged to take the weekly steamer which they expected would touch there late that night, and between the acts were all busy packing up. The play was 'The Merchant of Venice,' and we were just going on for the court scene, where the Jew insists on his pound of flesh, when we heard a whistle blow, and the manager came running in to say that the steamer had arrived ahead of time, and would leave again in 10 minutes.

"As that was our only chance of getting down to the Chesapeake, we were naturally in a terrible quandary, 'If we stop right here and explain,' said the manager, 'the audience will think they are being cheated, and go in for a free fight. The only thing we can do is for you fellows to get up some sort of a natural-like impromptu ending for the piece and ring down the drop. Go right ahead, ladies and gentlemen, and take your cue from Ned here,' and he hurried away to get the luggage on board.

"If it had been in any other quarter of the country I wouldn't have had the assurance to do so, he said, but the ignorance of the clay-eaters or ordinary Virginians of those days was something marvelous; so when old George Ruggles, who was doing 'Shylock,' got to where he sharpens his knife on his shoes, I walked solemnly up to him and said:

"'You're bound to have the flesh, are you?'

"'You bet your life,' said George, under the impression that he was improvising very skilfully, indeed.

"'Now, I'll make you one more dicker,' I continued. 'In addition to this bag of ducats, I'll throw in two kegs of niggerhead terback, a shot-gun and a couple of the best coon dogs in the State.'

"'I'm blamed if I don't do it,' said Shylock, much to the appreciation of the audience, who were tobacco raisers and coon hunters from the ground up.

"'And to show there is no hard feeling,' said Portia, turning up her legal gown, 'we'll wind up with a Virginny reel.'

"And as the prompter struck up 'Money Musk' on his fiddle we danced a couple of figures and made a break for the boat as the curtain fell, amid thunders of applause.

"When we got on board the steamers captain, who had witnessed the conclusion of the play with great delight, tendered the troupe the compliment of a hot supper, and remarked, as we sat down to what was a rare treat in those palmy days of the drama:

"'I'd like to see the whole of that play some time, gentlemen. I'm blamed if I thought that fellow Shakspere had so much snap to him.'"

Mouths a la Mode.

Boston Gazette.

Wide mouths for women have come into fashion again, says Clara Belle. Until now it has been the custom to sew up the corners i Nature was too lavish, but suddenly the fashionable belle has cut the puckering string, and shows all her ivories at once. Clara Belle, who is of course strictly reliable, further adds she knows a girl who will never go to the minstrels or any other funny show because she isn't pretty when she laughs. If inadvertently caught by anything comic she buries the laugh in her handkerchief, but whenever possible she does all her laughing internally. This wrenches her terribly, and sooner or later some of her vitals will get broken all to pieces. But she prefers death to a display of her scraggy teeth. Now wide mouths are the fashion, she will be forced to repair her dental deficiencies, and may then enjoy seeing the funny side of life.

"A Mean Hateful Thing."

Boston Transcript.

A remarkably rosy-faced young lady turned her ankle while crossing the street and fell in a faint almost in Sillibub's arms. Sillibub is a modest man, a very modest man, and the situation was a trying one; but he managed to refrain from dropping his lovely burden into the dirty snow and got her into the corner store, a crowd following. "Give her some water!" cried one. The water was presented to her lips, but she did not drink. "Bathe her face with it!" suggested another. Sillibub was about to follow the advice, when a sudden thought struck him. He laid down the glass, and whispered in horrified accents, "Perhaps she's painted!" He had broken the spell. Two eyes and one mouth opened, and one little tongue was set in motion. The fainter flounced out of Sillibub's arms like a mackerel out of a fish basket, at the same time informing Sillibub that he was "a great mean ugly thing, there!"

Advice that People Would Like to Follow.

Auburn Advertiser.

Collyer says: "Sleep eight hours of the day, eat three good meals, and walk on the sunny side of the street." This is just what a large number of people would like to do, but they never have the chance.

A Cross Baby.

Nothing is so conducive to a man's remaining a bachelor as stopping for one night at the house of a married friend and being kept awake for five or six hours by the crying of a cross baby. All cross and crying babies need only Hop Bitters to make them well and smiling. Young man, remember this.—*Traveller*

Correspondence.

PARISIAN LETTER.

Arctic Blasts, Snows and Their Consequences—The Elections—The Salon of 1881—The French in Equatorial Africa—Asphalt Sidewalks—Manual Instructions in the Parisian Schools—A Valuable Invention.

Correspondence of the Toledo BLADE.

PARIS, Jan. 25, 1881.

For the past fortnight Arctic blasts have given the death blow to the mildness of the usual Parisian Winter, and though the Seine was not frozen as during the Winter of 1879–80, and the thermometer at no time fell lower than 22°, the cold was intensely felt, as it always is in the south temperate and semi tropic climes. Heavy snows have impeded locomotion in all Northern and Central Europe, and snow has fallen as far south as Madrid, Nice and Southern Italy. Tourists and health seekers from the more northerly latitudes have not escaped cold, stormy weather, unless they went as far as Cairo. The Atlantic storms drove sea birds on shore to seek warmth and shelter, where they were caught by the thousands. At Brest, last week, 5,000 were trapped in nets in one day. Many shipwrecks are reported on the British coast, and 19 persons lost their way in London while seeking the depots, and perished with cold. On the night of the 16th, three feet of snow fell in this city, and the following day some 5,000 persons were employed by the Municipality to clean the streets. The snow was very wet, melting rapidly, yet not sufficiently to be swept like water, and the chilliness of the atmosphere consequent thereon, and the coldness of the asphalt pavements, covered six inches or more with icy slush, rendered locomotion very unhealthy and dangerous for man and beast.

Deep snows are greatly dreaded here. Snow melts enough to make it impossible to travel on runners, and wheeling becomes exceedingly difficult on account of the immense weight of all vehicles. Nothing is neglected by the authorities to keep the streets and asphalt walks in passable condition. The proprietaires, or property owners, are compelled to shovel the snow from before their doors, and gigantic snow shovels propelled by from a dozen to 20 Norman horses shovel it from center of the street, being followed by street sweepers also propelled by horse power. In the narrow streets it is thus piled very high on the sides, and as the temperature is not cold enough to freeze it hard, or to melt it entirely, the slush remains the same from day to day. Near the depots, and where travel is great, the streets were divested of immense piles of snow by pushing it into the sewers, into which water was turned, and it was washed into the Seine. The openings of these sewers are large, and usually well guarded by enclosures. Owing to negligence, however, a bright, beautiful little girl, met a most tragical death last week by falling into one of them. She was nine years old, and, like the children of Paris, was never permitted to go to, or from school without being attended by an older person. Her father was walking with her, holding her hand, on her return home from school between 4 and 5 o'clock P. M. It was dark and a light snow falling, and as they reached the narrow angle of two streets, near one of the depots, they were met by a dense crowd of cabs, hacks and pedestrians. Parisian hackmen are somewhat given to intemperance, especially in bad weather, they are high-tempered too, and have a way of screeching "hee hee," and driving without regard to impediments. The little one seeing a pair of prancing horses coming toward her, became frightened, broke away from her father and ran through the crowd and presently disappeared through the earth. In the confusion which ensued it was some moments before the agonized father realized that she had fallen into an open sewer, with water rushing through with great velocity, and from six to seven feet of icy snow and slush. Before he had reached the fatal opening, workmen with ladders had already descended to the icy abyss which they explored for a distance of a quarter of a mile, endeavoring their lives, but the rapidity of the current had borne the little victim beyond their reach, and her body has not yet been found. Among no people of the civilized world are family ties stronger than with the French, and the agony of the father so suddenly bereft, and of the mother who was awaiting the return at evening of her child, and an older sister who while at work in a distant part of Paris, heard that a child had fallen into an open sewer, and learned when reaching home, that it was his only sister, beggars description, and the profound sympathy of this great City has gone out in condolance to the bereaved ones.

The complete triumph of the Republic of France over imperialism, monarchy, ultramontanism and communism was evinced by the elections of the 9th and 16th inst. A mere plurality vote is not sufficient to elect Deputies, and those candidates who did not receive the requisite number of votes to elect, were voted for again on the 16th inst., the last and decisive election, resulting in increased Republican gains, not only in Paris but throughout the provinces, and even in Counties near the Spanish boundary, which have always been ultramontane. In Paris the Reactionists gained two seats in the Chambers, which however gives them no advantage in consequence of the large Republican gains. This demonstration made at Blanqui's funeral, it was thought the Communists had gained large accessions, but the elections showed them to be in a minority, the Communist vote footing up to 31,367, and the Retrocactionist vote to 42,657. A more kindly feeling exists between all the Republican factions since the election. The Imperialists are divided among themselves, and the Monarchists powerless, and the country now looks forward to the continuation of the era of prosperity which set in with the Republic, which is daily winning the confidence of the Nation by its wise administration and its economical management of the public moneys. A monarchical journal made the assertion, recently, that the Republic was costing France as much as the Empire or the Monarchy. No better opportunity could have been given the Republican papers to show the people the expense of former Governments, especially in one respect, where now not one franc of public money is used. The Imperial Princes and Princesses of the Second Empire cost the French people 36,000,000 francs per annum; added to this were the expenses of the Court, Ministers and Senators received much greater salaries than at present. Louis XVI. held in his personal service 15,000 persons, whose salaries were paid by public taxation, and 295 "officers de bouche," the whole costing the country the enormous sum of 28,000 livres per week. The Princess Lamballe cost the State 100,000 ecrus, or 1,000,000 francs, per annum. Several journals said they would trace the needless expense of imperialism and monarchy no farther back, but one paper rehearsed what Madame de Pompadour cost the French nation, and the sum is so astoundingly great that it seems incredible.

Monsieur Gambetta, in his recent oration at the banquet of "Los Chambres Syndicales," an association of the wine merchants of the Seine, spoke of the France of to-day as a Nation which, after 14 centuries of monarchy, upheld to the extremists of all parties, "*cette magnifique spectacle*," of a republic as powerful as any kingly dynasty. "One can predict" said he, "the result of this assembled. The Legislative proceedings have been a complete triumph for the bonne cracy, the Republic, and the country, and he concluded by giving the toast "to the entire press." As if not fearing to give to all parties the freedom of the press.

Great agitation exists in the French art world in regard to the Salon of 1881, by which is meant the annual exhibition of fine arts by the artists of France, which has been held at the Palais d'Industrie. France has now 10,000 artists, and the difficulty seems to be to give them all an opportunity to exhibit their works. The State bears the expense of the exhibition and therefore all its artists ought to have equality as exhibitors. The Board of Managers, however, believe the Salon would be a greater credit to the Nation if but 2,500 artists were permitted to exhibit. There the difficulty arises, who shall judge which are the meritorious 2,500. A work of art often becomes universally admired, which art critics have condemned as worthless, and its value is thus fixed by the vox populi. But art critics have no faith in uncultured criticism, and if the works of the 10,000 are all admitted, they claim it will lower the public taste for fine art. So the question of whether or not there will be "a salon," this year is undecided.

The Academy of Sciences and the Geographical Society, recently learned by telegraph from Madeira, of the success of the expedition they sent to Equatorial Africa under the command of M. De Brazza. The expedition traversed the country from Mashogo, on the Ogoone river, the first French scientific station, to the confluence of the Congo and the M'paika M'pama rivers. The last named stream was discovered in 1878 by De Brazza and Dr. Ballay. They encountered much animosity from the natives at that time, but the former was unmolested in his journey this year, and was successful in the purchase of land from the negro king Makoko, and in establishing a second French scientific station in the heart of Equatorial Africa. De Brazza was entertained by our eminent American traveler, Mr. Stanley, during his journey.

From a recent number of the BLADE I learn that the citizens of Toledo are agitating the sidewalk question. The great expense of plank sidewalks, and the constant repairs they require, has called my attention while here to the asphalt sidewalks, and the thought has suggested itself, could asphalt walks replace planks in Toledo? The asphalt here is not more than one inch and a half in thickness, is just as hard as stone, is smooth, dries very rapidly after rain, and has never cost the municipality a dollar for damages for broken limbs. They patch the walks so easily and nicely one can not tell the old from the new asphalt, and though the crust of manufactured stone looks so thin, the great Place de la Concorde is covered with it, and all day and far into the night it is crowded with vehicles, all of which are at least four times as heavy as ours. If the Toledo soil would admit the laying of asphalt walks, and the material and labor could be procured at a reasonable figure, immense public gain would be secured. Could not the experiment be made for a short distance? The only objection to asphalt walks is, they are cold in snowy seasons. They are very easy to walk upon on account of their smoothness, being preferable to stone or brick in this respect; and here in Paris, are very strong, durable and easily repaired.

The Committee of Public Instruction of Paris, are about to attempt the experiment of a certain number of "ateliers," or workshops in connection with the Public Schools, where pupils can be taught self-supporting manual occupations, while receiving intellectual instruction. The sum of 150,000 francs or $30,000 has been voted, and this, it is thought, will fit out fifty "ateliers." If the experiment proves a success, every public school will give manual as well as intellectual instruction.

Messrs. Leblanc and Loiseau, mechanical engineers, claim to have perfected an invention which will render railway collisions impossible. I regret that my ignorance of technical terms in railway and engineering language prevents me from translating the description of their invention, which if it proves to be what they claim for it, will be a great blessing to traveling humanity.

ROSA L. SEGUR.

LETTER FROM BUCKEYE.

Progress of the Apportionment Bill—Southern Greed.

Correspondence of the Toledo Blade.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.

One of the most interesting facts in our partizan struggles is the clannishness of the South, and her persistence is seizing every sectional advantage. I referred in one of my letters to the partizan character of the apportionment bill. The discussion over that measure on Thursday made this point so clear as to greatly irritate the Southern leaders. On a basis of 301 members the South gains six and all others States two. On a basis of 311 members (the number designated in the bill) the South gains 12 and all other States six. On a basis of 319, the South gains 19 and the other States 12. This last is therefore the fairest of the three.

This statement shows what an amount of political scheming has been exercised by the committee to obtain a sectional advantage. But this is not quite all. The committee have left out of their bill the usual provision that the members shall be *elected by Districts composed of contiguous territory and embracing as nearly as possible the population of the basis.* Why was this done? Can any other reason be given than this: that it would give a larger latitude to the Southern States to jerrymander their Districts? Under such a law the whole South might elect their members by general ticket. In which case every member could vote a Democrat: or patches might be taken off of one District and added to another, so as to secure the largest possible advantage to the solid section.

But this little trick of legislation got well exposed during the debate, and the figures of Mr. Horr, of Michigan, were particularly enlightening in regard to the infamous sectionalism thus disclosed. In a little different shape they cannot fail to interest the readers of the BLADE. His statement went to show that, for some reason, the voters in the Southern States did not get to the polls, and he thought the apportionment would be more in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution if it could be based on votes instead of population. It was said that voters were kept from the polls by intimidation or by discouragement resulting from the fact that their votes were not counted. It was therefore proper to inquire what would be the effect of a just apportionment—an apportionment based on the actual votes cast. The following table will tell the story at a glance:

SOUTHERN STATES.

States.	Total No. of each State.	Present Members.	No. based on vote.	No. under present Bill.	No. under new Bill.	No. many votes cast for Member in each House.	Average No. of votes cast for each Member in next House.
Alabama	151,506	8	5	8	5	3	18,938
Arkansas	106,919	4	3	5	4	1	26,730
Delaware	29,233	1	1	1	1		29,233
Florida	51,618	2	2				25,809
Georgia	155,035	9	5	10	5	5	17,226
Kentucky	264,047	10	8	10	9	1	26,404
Louisiana	97,201	6	3	6	3	3	16,200
Maryland	173,035	6	5	6	6		28,839
Mississippi	117,078	6	4	7	4	3	19,513
Missouri	397,221	14	11	14	13	1	30,553
N. Carolina	241,318	8	8	9	8		30,153
S. Carolina	170,956	5	5	6	6		34,191
Tennessee	241,867	10	8	10	8	2	24,186
Texas	282,789	6	7	10	7		39,522
Virginia	271,754	9	7	10	8	1	24,578
W. Virginia	112,713	3	4	4	4		37,571
	100 2,738,449	106	88	118	93	10	428,486
		25 023					36,780

NORTHERN STATES.

California	164,166	4	5	5	6		41,041
Colorado	53,332	1	2	1	2		53,332
Connecticut	132,358	4	4	4	5		33,089
Illinois	621,716	19	21	19	21		32,727
Indiana	470,678	13	15	14	16		33,206
Iowa	322,976	9	10	10	11		35,886
Kansas	91,019	3	6	6	6		67,005
Maine	148,853	5	4	4	5		28,770
Mass.	582,519	11	9	11	10		52,983
Michigan	353,941	11	10	11	12		39,171
Minnesota	130,571	3	4	3	4		43,523
Nebraska	87,355	1	3	3	3		87,355
Nevada	18,143	1	1	1	1		18,143
New Hamp	86,993	3	3	2	3		28,787
New Jersey	375,737	7	8	7	8		53,105
New York	1,104,671	33	35	32	37		33,475
Ohio	724,937	20	23	20	21		36,246
Oregon	40,812	1	1	1	1		40,812
Penn	1,474,731	28	27	28	28	1	52,490
Rhode Is	29,233	2	1	2	1		29,233
Vermont	64,180	3	2	3	2		21,491
Wisconsin	361,172	8	8	8	9		51,596
	187 6,439,143	187	203	194	218	218	34,913
	34,433						38,178

These figures are sufficiently startling. It appears from these that it takes 5,000 more votes to elect a member of Congress in the North than in the South. At this rate New York, instead of 33 members, should have 42, and all the other Northern States, instead of electing 187 members should have 60 more, or 247. Thus the South has 106 where it should have only 88. But, to all these facts it was answered that the apportionment must be made according to the Constitution; and the Constitution provides that it shall be according to population. There was, however, an answer to this position in the brilliant speech of Mr. Crowley, which has thus far met with no reply and which will certainly attract the attention of the country.

Mr. Crowley, argued that there were inequalities in the suffrage of the several States which demanded an investigation and which should be looked into by a committee of Congress before the apportionment was made. In two States which he mentioned there was an educational qualification which threw out many votes; in several other States there were qualifications dependent on the ownership of land or the payment of taxes; and in still other States it was charged and believed that there was methods in practice which excluded voters from the polls, or discarded the votes after they were cast. The Constitution, he said, gave to Congress the power to make the conditions equal in all the States, and he was opposed to making the apportionment till a Committee had investigated these inequalities and presented evidence to show what the fair basis would be.

He then proceeded to answer a position taken by Mr. Cox, to the effect that the 14th amendment furnished no remedy against the suppression of votes by individuals. That amendment, Mr. Cox had said was addressed to the States. "No *State* shall deny or abridge, etc., etc." This clause was inactive, Mr. Cox said, till the State passed some law by which the suffrage was abridged. To this Mr. Crowley replied that the State acted through its agents as well as through regularly enacted laws, and in this connection he quoted the decision of the Supreme Court in the Virginia case, (1879) where a Judge was charged with disregarding the Constitution in the selection of juries. Judge Strong pronounced the opinion of the Court and it was held that the amendments, while they did not specifically charge the fundamental law as to the rights of citizens, very much changed and enlarged the powers of Congress, and made any legislation which was "appropriate" to the protection of the rights of citizens constitutional. As to the action of the State the court says:

"A State acts by its legislative, its executive, or its judicial authorities. It can act in no other way. The constitutional provision must therefore mean that no agency of the State, no officers or agent by whom its powers are exerted, shall deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

The Court then goes on to show how the "appropriate" legislation of Congress is to be made effective. It says:

"The Constitutional amendment was ordained for a purpose. It was to secure equal rights to all persons; and, to insure to all persons the enjoyment of such rights, power was given to Congress to enforce its provisions by "appropriate legislation." Such legislation *must act upon persons*, not upon the abstract thing called a State, but upon the persons who are the agents of the State in the denial of the rights which were intended to be secured."

It will be readily seen that this opinion of the Supreme Court cuts deeper than the matter of drawing juries. The agents of the State who stuff ballot-boxes, who obstruct supervising officers, who lead the shot-gun militia, the Governor who gives his certificate to a man counted out by the agents of the State, as in the case of the Shoestring District, misrepresented by Chalmers, all these and many more cases in which the supreme law is wilfully perverted, will find a specific remedy under this view taken by the Supreme Court, and much that was supposed to be beyond the reach of Congress is brought directly under its action. There will be no apportionment bill passed by this Congress unless it largely changes its tone. BUCKEYE.

PHILADELPHIA.

The Inconveniences of a Severe Winter—The Seething Cauldron of Local Politics—The Senatorship.

To the Editor of the Blade:

The memory of the oldest inhabitant runneth not back to the time when there has been

SUCH AN ICY WINTER

as this in the City of Brotherly Love. Scarcely has one cold wave rolled over us and rolled on and away, when another makes its appearance, or makes its presence felt. A large part of the snow that came in December is with us yet, and just as we began to hope for a surcease of our snowy tribulations, here comes a fresh supply. When the first big one came, the shop owners shoveled the snow off the sidewalks into the streets, and the street car companies shoveled it out of their tracks towards the sidewalks, and so here, it was ridged up for miles like long lines of entrenchments, with embrasures at the street crossings for foot passengers. For days thereafter, wheeled vehicles of all kinds had to follow the street cars, which in this city go up one street and come down another. If by any chance two carts or carriages met, there was some skillful hurdle driving, accompanied by very pungent remonstrances. Finally, turning places were cut in the middle of each square, and gradually the streets were becoming passable again, when there is a reinforcement, and we are down in the depths under the show blockade once more. And now the Delaware is behaving badly. The ice is thicker than ever known before, but the ferry boats have managed to ply quite regularly until within the week. The ice boats have been busy breaking up the ice, and it finally broke loose somewhere above the City, and started down. The tide was coming up and stopped the flow between this City and Camden, and it filled up in great ridges 10 feet high, with huge irregular blocks turned up on edge, and all froze solid. The river looks exceedingly rough and threatening, and it has been slow and critical work for the boats to cross. A ferry boat started across yesterday from Camden, got fast in the middle of the river, and after some hours in the ice pack, managed to work its way back to the New Jersey shore.

But if the weather is cold, and the river and streets icy,

THE POLITICAL ELEMENTS

have burst into a grand ebullition of heat. The contest for City officers is warm enough to produce a thaw. The election occurs on the 15th, and "the days are passing swiftly by." The stakes will be won and lost in little time that remains. Some very good citizens, desiring to promote the best good of the City, organized a Committee of One Hundred. They were all Republicans, but professed to be non-partisan, and having imbibed the notion that certain reforms were necessary to secure the highest public welfare, they laid down a set of rules, nominated a ticket of Republican candidates, whom they asked to subscribe to the principles put forth by their little machine. They set out to oppose "machine politics," and they did it, as is generally the case, by organizing another machine; but to their credit be it said, they nominated an excellent ticket, included Mayor Stokely, the present efficient chief executive of the City. Then the Republicans held their regular Convention and they also nominated Mayor Stokely. Here the trouble began. The regulars did not adopt the "non-partisan" notions of the One Hundred, and Mayor Stokley declined to subscribe to any set of principles besides those adopted by the regular Republican Convention. He claimed, and very justly, that he stood upon his record of nine years as Mayor, and if that could not be trusted, it was useless to make pledges just preceding an election. The fact is,

STOKLEY'S ADMINISTRATION

Is acknowledged by all parties to be the best the City has ever had, and that he has effected most of the reforms which the "reformers" now ask for. The Committee of One Hundred gave him an unequivocal endorsement, when they adopted him unanimously, but because he averred that his record must speak for him, and began a search for a more pliant man, who would make the pledges they asked. They found one at last in the person of a Mr. King, a strong partisan Democrat, but he was profuse in promises, and so they adopted him, and began pulling the wires to get King nominated by the regular Democrats. In this they succeeded, after considerable delay and trouble. Geo. De B. Keim is also a candidate for Mayor endorsed by a portion of the Union League. The contest is of course between Stockley and King, with the chances largely in favor of the former. His strength is no sudden acquirement, but arises from the exceptionally fine record he has made in his nine years mayoralty. He found the City nine years ago with a totally inefficient police force and given over largely to the control of roughs, plug uglies and shoulder hitters, with whom the police were known to "stand in." Mayor Stockley soon developed executive ability of a high order. He organized a police force which is now second to none in the United States. It is probably superior to any other. In all respects

THE CITY IS WELL GOVERNED.

The streets are generally peaceful and safe at night. Dens of vice have been broken up, and the disorderly and criminal classes are kept well in hand. I said to a prominent citizen who withdrew from the Committee of One Hundred, "Why did you resign?" "Because I am unreservedly for Stokley. I would much rather trust his splendid record than the mere promises of a new man. King is no less a Democrat now than he has been for years, and although I have no doubt he means well, yet, if he should be elected, he will be at once surrounded by Democrats, and would be driven in spite of himself into violation of his pledges. We cannot afford to run the risk, and every citizen whose desire for good government is mingled with sound discretion thinks as I do."

The next most important office is

RECEIVER OF TAXES.

For this office there are two candidates, both first-class men, and both Republicans. The Committee of One Hundred, now less than half a hundred, it is said, selected Mr. John Hunter, and the Democrats have indorsed him. The Republican candidate is George G. Fierie, who will be elected. And the Republican ticket generally will be successful, for in the language of a call for a public meeting to-night, the people of Philadelphia will "recognize and support the principle that the servants of the people who have been tried and found faithful and competent in the performance of every public trust are entitled to the public confidence."

THE SENATORSHIP.

But the interest is not all centered around our City election. There is great anxiety among Republicans over the prolonged contest at Harrisburg. The election of a United States Senator seems no nearer than the day the first ballot was taken. There are almost daily predictions of a break-up, but it does not come. The Grow men claim to be opposed to caucus dictation, but they were very willing to go into caucus for the nomination of officers of the Legislature and made no sign of opposition to the caucus until after they had counted noses and found themselves in a minority. Then they abjured the caucus and raised the cry of "opposition to the machine," and to show how thoroughly they were determined to stand by their own independent manhood they signed a written pledge that they would not change their course unless two-thirds of their number said they might. They are able to cast two-thirds as many votes as are given for Oliver, and to an onlooker it looks very much as though a rather small machine is trying to "rule or ruin" the Republican party of the State. It is a "machine" against the party. The ever-faithful Republicans do not forget that Mr. Grow abandoned the party in 1872, and labored for the success of the Democrats. One member of the Legislature said to me the other day: "Mr. Grow's party to which alone he is truly bound is Galusha A. Grow." He knows perfectly well now, as do his friends, that his election is impossible, yet they keep up this strife to the serious detriment of the party. Mr. Grow himself is at the bottom of all the difficulty. In the midst of the late campaign wherein the great interests of the nation were at stake, he canvassed the people to secure "instructions" at the election for himself as United States Senator, like another, John Hook, hoarsely crying "beef!" "beef!" in the midst of our revolutionary crisis. The party cannot afford to let this unruly faction win, and it will not.

J. P.

"TECHNICALLY DESERTERS."

An Eloquent Appeal in Behalf of a Much-Abused Class of Soldiers.

To the Editor of the Toledo BLADE:

Permit me (though not a deserter) to communicate a few words through your columns, concerning some of that class of Boys in Blue who deserted at Cairo, in June, 1865. It strikes me as altogether proper that the country should be reminded of the circumstances of that desertion, in order to be rightly able to judge of the nature of that transaction, and to decide correctly as to the criminality or otherwise of the same. It will be recollected by those encamped at Camp Harker that early in June the 79th Illinois Infantry and all other soldiers whose time would expire before the first of the following October, were discharged and sent home, and the rest of us stationed there were given to understand that inasmuch as the fighting was over, and the war virtually ended, we would soon follow suit. I belonged to the 42d Ill. Vet. Vol. Infantry. The boys had not, from some cause or other, been paid off for eight months. On the 12th day of June the Paymaster came 'round and paid us off, when those who had families at home suffering for the necessaries of life were of course anxious and urgent to send home the money which they had fairly and nobly earned, to relieve the necessities, and as far as practicable, compensate those loving and patient, and loyal, and suffering ones at home for the important part they had performed in the great work of saving the country. And those who had no families at home had nevertheless a future before them and they felt that they too had a clear and undoubted right to send their money where it could be held secure and ready for their use when they should become ready to settle down to the quiet enjoyment of a home in that land and under that Government which they had labored so long, unsleepingly and faithfully to save from annihilation. But how were these wishes responded to? How were our expectations realized? Only four miles away, at Nashville, was a United States Express office, but on the 13th day of June strict orders were given to allow no soldier to go to Nashville. On the next day we were allowed to go from each Company, but with still no chance to express any money. On the morning of the next day (June 15,) orders came to strike tents, fall into line and march out to the railroad to take the train to go South, probably to Texas. We were marched up within one half mile of the express office at Nashville, and held there two or three hours, under strict orders not to leave ranks farther than to eat our dinners. We were then taken aboard the cars and started westward, arriving next morning at or near Waverly. Here was an express office. But the train was stopped one-half mile out of town and very strong orders given that none of the men should go to Town. Still no money expressed, and the boys getting excited. At noon we reached the river, where we were told there was no express office, but as we were here transferred to a boat, and as we were told that we could express from Paducah or Cairo, and as we were for the time going toward both there was a lull in the excitement and all became somewhat cheerful. Arriving at the mouth of the river, opposite Paducah, late in the afternoon of the 16th, we were allowed to go on the island east of the City where we bathed and got our suppers, when we again embarked and the boat was run out into the middle of the stream and anchored, the officers going into the City for recreation, the privates remaining on the boat in tantalizing proximity to the means by which they might have been allowed to communicate with their loved ones and sent them the money for which the had so long waited and which they so greatly needed. But in the morning the officers returned to the boat, and we proceeded on toward Cairo, where we arrived in the afternoon of June 17, 1865. Arrived at Cairo do I say? No. We arrived opposite Cairo. The boat was launched out in the Ohio. Officers lowered the small boat and went ashore. Right then and there was a crisis. There were gallant, noble, patriotic, heroic men. Many of them had fought through all our terrible struggle. They had received no pay for the last eight months till now, and now when the work was done and we had good reason to expect a discharge, our eyes and ears were greeted with very different sights and sounds. Guards were thrown out on the bank with sharp and hasty orders to fire on any soldier, who should attempt to land. But neither the soldiers nor the guards paid any attention to what they considered most tyrannical and altogether uncalled-for orders. Large numbers went on shore;—and they remained there. The guards were loyal men, loyal to right, loyal to humanity, loyal to their country, and loyal to the men who had so nobly and persistently helped to save that country; and when the command came, quick and sharp, to fire on the *deserters*, not a gun was raised, not a guard stirred, not an expression of countenance showed the least intention of killing a brave comrade for claiming and exercising the right after all their hard service and absence from friends, and contact with deadly perils, to set foot once more on the loved soil of their own cherished State, and claim the privilege of at once spending the means of subsistence and some words of endearment to the loved ones at home. Now, I have not the least idea that any one of these Illinois men had any desire or intention to desert. But when they were ordered to a Southern climate, and in a sickly season, to a long distance from home and friends, and compelled to take with them extra clothing, and books, and the money so much needed at home, they could by no means understand the wisdom, the honesty, the justice or the policy of taking all these things to the far South for the sake of sending them back over the same route, at great expense of time and money, and subject to much loss in transit. Now, I have no individual or personal interest in this matter. I did not desert, or feel any inclination to do so. Under other circumstances I might. I do feel that a great wrong was perpetrated by somebody against those technical deserters, or some masterly stroke of military policy unexplained that might now be ventilated with advantage to the reputation of the officers who are answerable for the desertions of those brave men. Now I will ask one question and then I will dismiss the subject. Can this saved, this redeemed, this glorious Nation maintain its integrity, its honor, its dignity, aye its very existence by forgiving Rebels by restoring them to all the rights of citizenship and allowing them to sit in the councils of the Nation while the brave defender of our Nation, and all its interests are to be ranked and treated as *technical* deserters simply because when their great work was done and well done they dared to do one act in violation of red tape stringency, in order to save their loved ones after they had saved their country.

WM. C. GRIFFITH.

Rising City, Neb.

Plumbers.

Bost. Evening Star.

A plumber fell from the fourth-story floor to the cellar through an elevator shaft in Detroit, the other day, and was uninjured. Plumbers sometimes die of broken hearts in midsummer, when the buttercups and daisies are blooming in the meadows, when the little song-birds are twittering in the trees, and when the water-pipes are working to a charm throughout the City. But they neither die nor can they be killed by any ordinary means in the Winter time. A fall of four stories through an elevator shaft simply acts upon the plumber as a tonic.

Fees of Doctors.

The fee of doctors is an item that very many persons are interested in just at present. We believe the schedule for visits is $3.00, which would tax a man confined to his bed for a year, and in need of a daily visit, over $1,000 a year for medical attendance alone! And one single bottle of Hop Bitters taken in time would save the $1,000 and all the year's sickness.—*Post.*

PENSION AGENT HARPIES.

Working for More Robbery of the Treasury—Efforts to Defeat Commissioner Bentley's Bill—Three Curious Letters.

New York Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—The Pensions Appropriation bill is upon the Senate calendar, and will probably be called up next week. An understanding was reached in the Appropriation Committee that Senator Withers, Chairman of the Pensions Committee, should move to add to the Appropriation bill, as an amendment, the measure still known as the "Sixty Surgeons bill," providing a reorganization of the machinery for the adjudication of pension claims.

The pension claim agents are, as might be expected, acting in concert, and vigorously in opposition. For several weeks they have been sending circulars to pensioners and pension claimants in all parts of the country, beseeching in italic and "small caps" that haste be made in getting signatures to inclosed petions against the measure. Three of these circulars have come into the poss

Answers to Correspondents.

We are obliged to remind our readers that there are certain classes of questions which we cannot undertake to answer, viz.:

1. Those sent anonymously by the name of the writer. The name is not required for publication, but only as an evidence of good faith. All letters not complying with this rule find their way at once to the waste basket.

2. Mathematical problems and questions in grammatical construction. We are willing to afford all our readers an opportunity to ask and answer the former, but we have not the type necessary for publishing algebraic problems and solutions.

3. Questions which in the judgment of the editor are not appropriate or proper in the columns of the BLADE. Hundreds of questions come to this department every week, and the editor must be allowed to exercise his discretion in making selections calculated to promote the general interest.

4. Inquiries as to the standing or reliability of individuals, firms or corporations, doing a general business. The BLADE's endorsement is too valuable to be bestowed indiscriminately, and it is not always possible to devote the time necessary to ascertain the standing of an individual or a firm located in a distant part of the country.

Correspondents whose inquiries are not answered within a reasonable time would do well to repeat them. If they still fail to receive an answer they are asked to believe that the questions remain unanswered for good and sufficient reasons.

We respectfully request that subscribers will keep all communications for the business and editorial departments of the BLADE entirely separate and distinct, always upon separate leaves. Questions for this latter department should never be written on the same leaf with letters containing subscriptions or orders for books. Letters intended for this department of the paper should be marked "Correspondents' Department."

A Subscriber, Weston, O.:

Is there any United States Recruiting Office in Ohio, and if so, where situated?

Yes; at Columbus.

C. W. T., Carbondale, Ind.:

The popular vote in New York State was—Hancock, 534,511; Garfield, 555,544; Weaver, 12,373; Dow, 1,127; scattering, 1,806.

E. H. T., Prentiss Dale, Pa.:

The electoral questions have been answered repeatedly in these columns, so often, in fact, that it is impossible to give more space to them.

E., Lawrence, Pa.:

Please inform me of the necessary steps to take to secure an appointment as Weigh Master on the Railway Postal Service.

Make application to the Chief of the Railway Mail Service at Washington.

O. M. Lewis, Fairfield, Neb.:

To whom must I apply to obtain a correct statistical report of the agricultural condition of each State, including the acres cultivated in each State?

Apply to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Student, Richmond, Ind.:

Is Bulwer the author of "Richelieu," and Owen Meredith, who wrote "Lucile," one and the same person?

Owen Meredith is the pseudonym adopted by Edward Robert Bulwer, son of the Edward Edward Robert Bulwer, son of the Edward George, first Baron Lytton, who wrote "Richelieu."

T. A. Phillips, Fox River, Mich.:

How much is Vanderbilt worth? Also Mackey and Flood, of Nevada?

Vanderbilt's wealth is variously estimated all the way from $100,000,000 to $200,000,000. Mackey and Flood are rated at from $10,000,000 to $20,000,000.

F. D., Centrella, Kan.

1. Where can I get a magazine suitable for a carpenter to take, one that will give me good plans for buildings? 2. Can the Government compel the Quakers or Friends to defend it in case of trouble?

1. Try the Carpenter and Builder, New York.

2. Yes.

Teacher, North Madison, Ind.:

It is said that some of the late geographies are giving Charleston as the capital of West Virginia, while others give Wheeling. Which is right?

Up to this time it has been supposed that Wheeling is the capital of West Virginia, and we are still inclined to that belief, some of the geographies to the contrary notwithstanding.

S. C. R. Stonington, Ill.:

1. What has become of Mr. Miller, a former proprietor of the BLADE? 2. What does the word limited mean, after the address of some business firm?

1. He is at present the manager of the New York Tribune. 2. It is a special provision of English law that limits the liabilities of the stockholders to the amount of their stocks.

J. M. N., Lone Oak, Mo.:

Will you please give us some information regarding the President's inaugural ball, where is it usually held, on which floor, etc. If admittance is limited, or are a limited number of tickets issued for those desiring to attend?

The inaugural ceremonies are held in the open space in front of the Capitol, and are free to all who choose to attend. This year there is to be a grand inaugural ball to which an admission fee of $5 will be charged.

Reader, Taylor, Ill.:

Does it make any perceptible difference in marching a temperature whether the thermometer be protected from the wind, or stands in an exposed position?

Generally, a thermometer exposed to the wind is lower than one protected from the breeze. Much depends, however, on the comparative amount of dryness or moisture contained in the current. Moisture has a tendency to lower the mercury.

E. R., Fort Scott, Kans.:

1. Are there any colored representatives in the House? 2. What is the salary of the delegate sent to Congress from the Territories? 3. How many troops did Missouri furnish during the late war?

1. Yes. 2. $5,000. 3. Only a short time ago a table was published in this column, which stated that the number of soldiers furnished by Missouri, reduced to a three years' standard, was about 85,000.

G. G., Elde, Mich.:

1. How is "Disraeli" pronounced? 2. Do the rules of etiquette require that a postage stamp should be placed in the upper right hand corner? 3. How high is the highest hotel in the United States? 4. Is it pronounced so as to rhyme with "Bailey?"

1. It is pronounced so as to rhyme with "Bailey." 2. No, but for the convenience of the postoffice employes who have to handle letters. It is the custom to place them there. 3. Seven stories high. When it is finished, it will probably be the largest hotel in the United States.

J. W. P., Oak Ridge, Ill.:

I enlisted in 19th Ky. Vol. Cav., in August, 1862, for one year, and was discharged September 17, 1863. I received, as bounty, for one year's service, $25 as bounty, and $25 more when mustered out. Did I get all I was entitled to, having been promoted 2nd Lieutenant?

The one year enlistments in Kentucky were under special conditions that did not obtain elsewhere. We are not familiar with their exact terms, but if you were provided $100 bounty by competent authority, $50 is your due you, if you fulfilled all the other requirements.

H. J. Wahrer, Wheatland, Iowa:

Can any one be elected President of the United States who has lived here 14 years?

Section 1, Article 2, of the Constitution says: "No person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States, at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained the age of 35 years, and have been 14 years a resident within the United States."

S. Johnson, Homesville, Miss.:

1. In making embankments on railways, what is the width of the road-bed for standard gauges? 2. What is for narrow gauge? 3. In cuts, what is the usual width at the bottom on standard and narrow gauges?

1. The ordinary top width is 14 feet. 2. The embankments for narrow gauges are 10 to 12 feet, the latter being the best measure. 3. In making cuts the width of the bottom is 20 feet for standard and 16 to 18 feet for narrow gauges. Side ditches in cuts are each three feet wide at the top, the two taking up six feet, leaving the width of the finished roadbeds in cuts the same as the width of the embankment.

R. L., Galesburg, Ill.:

How old is the obelisk recently placed in Central Park, New York?

Mr. David P. Holton, Corresponding Secretary of the American Philological Society, has a paper prepared by Gustavus Seyffarth upon the obelisk now in that City. He fixes the date of the obelisk at about 1566 B. C., and certain hieroglyphics are translated to signify "the man who died in the bay of the Red Sea." He therefore concludes that the inscription records the fate of Pharaoh, before whose face Moses and Aaron stood so often, and who was the hero of the tragedy that occurred when the children of Israel escaped pursuit by the Egyptian army being overwhelmed in the Red Sea.

Edward McMahon, Ayton, Ont.:

I served in the 72d Ohio Regiment during the whole American war. Is there any law giving any bounty or reward for such service extra —either State or National—or any land advantage that I could get? I have but nothing since my discharge, in any shape or form, from the authorities, either State or National. Please inform me whether there are any such provisions, what they are, and where I should apply to get it?

You are doubtless entitled to an additional $100 extra bounty, and in the event of taking up a homestead the term of your service will be deducted from the five years required to establish a title. For further and fuller directions apply to J. A. Bentley, Commissioner of Pensions, Washington, D. C.

A. I. R., Minnesota Lake, Minn.:

1. Why does our Government object to foreign capital being used in the construction of the Panama Canal? 2. What right have they to dictate what capital shall be used in its construction? 3. What is the Monroe doctrine?

1. Our Government does not object to the use of foreign capital in digging or constructing the canal. That which is objected to is giving the control of a great improvement, which is so directly identified with our interests as to be almost a continuation of our coast line, to a foreign power, or to have it under the control of interests foreign to ours after it is completed. 2. The Government's right to object to the use of foreign capital is one that grows out of the rights of self-preservation and a sound governmental policy. 3. That no European power shall be permitted to gain any further rights or powers on this continent.

Inquirer, West Point, Wis.:

What was the occasion of the Cilley-Graves duel in 1838? Did it result fatally?

In February, 1838, Mr. Cilley, of Maine, charged in his speech in the House that James Watson Webb, editor of the New York Courier and Enquirer, had received a bribe of $52,000 from the Bank of the United States. Graves, of Kentucky, took up Webb's quarrel, and Henry A. Wise bore his challenge to Cilley. Gen. George W. Jones was Cilley's second. Bladensburg was the place, and the weapons were rifles. The rifles rang out and both missed. The challenge was withdrawn to give opportunity for reconciliation. The attempt failed, and the principals again took position, Wise remarking that if the matter was not terminated by this shot he would propose to shorten the distance. The rifles rang again, and Cilley fell dead.

W. S. G., Diamond Grove, Mo.:

1. Did Congress ever pass a law that prohibited the issuing of greenbacks to the amount of over $400,000,000? Please state why such a law was passed. 2. What is the object or policy in striking out the legal tender clause of the greenback and virtually killing it? 3. What per cent. does the Government receive on the National Bank circulation?

1. In order to dispel any fears of the currency being excessively inflated, the law providing for the issue of greenbacks contained a provision that the total issue should not exceed $400,000,000. 2. Those who advocated depriving greenbacks of their legal tender quality, believed that the only constitutional money is gold and silver, that the issue of paper money by the Government, if legal at all, was only so as a war power, and the necessity of this species of money having passed, they should be retired from circulation. 3. One per cent. per annum.

Frank S., Saybrook, Ill.:

Is it a fact that the Pacific Ocean is a comparatively shallow body of water?

The popular belief as to the comparative shallowness of the Pacific Ocean has been modified by recent soundings made with what is known as Sir William Thomson's steel wire, and which show that along the entire coast of California a depth of 1,500 fathoms or more is reached within a distance of from 20 to 70 miles westward from the shores, the greater part of this sudden fall occurring in the last 10 to 50 miles. At 100 miles west of San Francisco the bottom is found to be 2,500 fathoms deep. The bed of the ocean continues of a uniform depth greater than 1,500 fathoms until the Sandwich Islands are reached, the greatest depth, 3,000 fathoms, at a distance of about 400 miles east of Honolulu. That great depth is maintained until within 90 miles of Honolulu; at 50 miles from that place the depth is 1,500 fathoms.

Subscriber, Louisville, Ind.:

How is oleomargarine, that we are hearing so much about just now, made?

Oleomargarine is the fat resembling butter extracted from beef tallow. The fat is cut into fine pieces and placed in a vessel with water, a little carbonate of potash and fresh sheeps stomachs, and the whole warmed to 112 deg. Fahr. Under the influence of the heat and the pepsin of the stomachs the fat separates from the cellular tissue. This fat is allowed to cool till it solidifies when it is subjected to hydraulic pressure; then it separates into two portions, one of which is sterine, which is used for making candles, and the other a liquid oil called oleomargarine. The latter is poured into a churn while still liquid, with about half its volume of fresh milk, and nearly as much water. After churning the mixture yields the "butter," which is salted and colored with annatto.

H. H., Montgomery Junction, O.:

Where is Gen. Fremont, and what business is he engaged in? Please give me a short sketch of his life.

Gen. John Charles Fremont is the Governor of Arizona Territory. He was born in Savannah, Ga., Jan. 21, 1813. In the Winter of 1837-8 he accompanied Capt. Williams, U. S. A., in a survey of the Cherokee country. In May, 1838, under the authority of the Government, he began the exploration of the overland route to the Pacific, and ascended the highest peak in the Wind River Mountains, now called Fremont's Peak. In 1842 he explored the great Salt Lake region, and made his third famous expedition in 1845, when he explored the Sierra Nevadas. In 1849 he settled in California, used his influence to make her a free State, and was her United States Senator in 1850-51. He was nominated for the Presidency by the Republicans in 1856 and again in 1864. During the war he held several important commissions, being at one time Commander of the Mountain Department, including parts of Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee.

W. W. Plano, Ill.:

1. Is the temperature of the North and South Pole the same? 2. Has the South Pole ever been visited by man, and if not why does it show in the interest being currently manifested exploring expeditions toward the North? 3. Who was the Cid, and where is the land of the Cid?

1. Nobody knows, but it is thought that the temperature is the same at both places. 2. 3. there are two reasons why the North Pole has had more attention paid it than the South, the principal one being the importance of securing a northwest passage around the two continents, the other one is the desire to secure electrical data for scientific and commercial purposes. In 1892 Capt. Wilkes made the nearest approach to the South Pole, and discovered what he claimed was the Antarctic Continent; but a few years later a British ship approached the spot and found immense fields of ice, which led to the conclusion that Capt. Wilkes' theory was wrong. 3. The Cid is the title given to the Spanish nobleman of the eleventh century, by whom he had vanquished. He was also known by the abbreviated title of Ruy Diaz, and was Count of Bivar. In 1065 he was placed by King Sancho at the head of all his armies, whence he acquired the appellation of *Campeador*, that is warrior, champion. He died at Valencia in 1100, in the 74th year of his age. He is regarded as the model of the heroic virtues of his age and the flower of Spanish chivalry.

T. M. Lester, Michigan:

1. Who is the author of the Apostles Creed and at what time was it written? 2. When was London first known in history?

No one really knows who the author was. There is an old tradition that it was made by the Apostles themselves, at a meeting in Jerusalem, each of them contributing an article towards an authentic, compendious and unchangeable rule of faith, but the tradition rests upon no historical evidence. The original form of the creed was complete in the second century, additional passages having been added later, as will be seen by the following, in which the added passages are enclosed in parentheses: "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, (maker of heaven and earth); and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified (dead) and buried; (he descended into hell;) the third day he arose from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of (God) the Father (Almighty); from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy (Catholic) Church, (the communion of saints,) the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body (and the life everlasting.) Amen." It is commonly supposed that the nucleus of the creed was the formula of baptism; "in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost," to which the other articles were appended, the whole forming a brief summary of historical statements from the New Testament in regard to the Father, Son and Spirit. 2. The first authentic notice of the existence of London (Londinium) occurs in Tacitus. About 100 years after Julius Cæsar's invasion it was taken by the Romans under Claudius, called Augusta, and placed under Roman administration. In A. D., 61, the Britons, under Boadicea, captured and burned the City, which was, however, soon rebuilt. It is supposed that during the reign of Constantine the Great that the walls of the City were built.

History Class, Lockport, Ind.:

1. Give a short sketch of the election of Jefferson by the House of Representatives. 2. In the balloting did any State vote blank? 3. Give a sketch of the election of John Q Adams by the House of Representatives. 4. Who was Speaker of the House at the time John Q. Adams was elected?

1-2. The House of Representatives on which devolved the choice between Jefferson and Burr, voted [illegible] balloting on Wednesday, [illegible]

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THE WEEKLY BLADE

TOLEDO BLADE CO., Pub'rs.
D. R. LOCKE, Editor.
JOHN McELROY, Associate Editor.

TOLEDO, O., THURSDAY, FEB. 17, 1881.

☞ Entered at the Postoffice at Toledo as Second-Class Matter.

THE TOLEDO BLADE.

TERMS—Postage Paid!

Single copy, one year, $2.00, and at the same rate for a shorter time. Clubs of five, per year, $1.75 each. Clubs of 10 and over, $1.65 each.

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Address, THE BLADE, TOLEDO, OHIO.

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Circulation this Week, 75,000

NASBY IN EUROPE.

Early in April next Mr. D. R. LOCKE, (Rev. PETROLEUM V. NASBY) sails for Europe, to make a tour six months in duration in those countries. He will communicate his impressions in his own peculiarly humorous way of what he sees there in a series of letters to the BLADE, which will appear from week to week during his absence. It can be confidently promised that these will prove an attraction that cannot help producing a sensation equaling any effort of our reverend contributor in the past. To have Europe, its institutions, armies, politics, rulers, manners and customs, modes of life, and kinds of drinks viewed through NASBY'S eyes, and tested by that philosopher's standards of measurement, can not help being by far the most fascinating reading that any one will or can offer to the reading public this year. As heretofore, Mr. NASBY will only write for the BLADE

THE book "Struggles of Nasby" is going very fast, and will soon be gone.

STILL Senatah BUTLAH, of South Carolina, sah, has not informed Senatah CONKLING of his address.

SWISS watches have found the market in Australia that they lost in this country in consequence of the development of our own watchmaking interests.

WE think the people would rather enjoy a duel between the Hyperion-curled Senator from New York, and the South Carolina Boss of the Bulldozers.

THE report that CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS is about to visit the Hot Springs, Ark., for his rheumatism, raises the fear that if he is allowed to bathe in them they will never be hot any more.

NEW YORK farmers are abandoning the growing of wheat, which they can not produce of as good quality as that in the West, and turning their attention to potatos and other vegetables.

WE are having an enormous sale of the 25 cent cloth books announced elsewhere, and for the first time announced last week. Send your orders early, as the supply will soon be exhausted.

THE Indianapolis *Sentinel*—the Democratic organ of the State—says editorially that Mr. TILDEN gave $50,000 to the late Democratic campaign fund, in $25,000 instalments, and then told the solicitors they must not call again.

AN officer of engineers calls attention to the fact that the amounts appropriated to improve several streams in South Carolina so as to make them navigable for pole boats, would be sufficient to build and equip a good railroad along their banks.

IT is rumored that another attempt will be made to produce the Passion Play in New York, this time by the manager of "The Legion of Honor." Perseverance will probably accomplish it even in the face of an overwhelming and adverse public opinion.

AN effort was lately made to intimidate Prof. IRELAND, who was sent to Mississippi last November by the Woman's Missionary Society, of the Christian Church, to establish a theological school for colored students. Fortunately a few of the most respectable citizens of the County interfered, and the result was the peaceable establishment of the institution. This goes to show that there is a chance for Northern people who choose to emigrate Southward, to be allowed to do so without losing their lives or property.

IT is said that a cat has nine lives. It sometimes appears as if the average small boy had as many, for he goes through with so many perils and comes out like a rubber ball, a little scratched perhaps, but about as good as ever for all practical purposes. The other day one got upon the wire rope of a gravity railroad in an Eastern City, went down at an exceedingly lively rate, was drawn under the large pulley and came up the other side, with clothes somewhat demoralized and some blood flowing, but by no means extinguished. When he recovers from his bruises he will probably be proud of the distinction his ride will give him among the other small boys.

LOCAL INDEBTEDNESS.

The immense amount of money paid by the cities and towns of the United States for interest on debt has been made the subject of inquiry, and a preliminary report issued by Mr. ROBERT P. PORTER, whose duty it has been to attend to the matter, in regard to 300 cities having a population of 7,500 and over. This makes a startling showing,—startling in that it demonstrates that their aggregate debt is $664,000,000 which they pay six times over every century, since the annual interest, made known by careful computation amounts to $41,030,000 each year, and this in 100 years counts up to $4,103,000,000, a sum that almost takes the breath away to think of.

It must be remembered that this showing refers only to 300 Cities of the United States, while there are 6,000 smaller towns yet to hear from. This vast sum constitutes the bonded debt alone, not taking into account the floating debt. To this City indebtedness must be added the State and County debts of the country in order to ascertain the local owing of the United States. There are 2,706 Counties in the United States which together owe $200,000,000, while the State debts last June amounted to $250,700,000. Adding these all together and there is an appalling total of $1,200,000,000.

Mr. PORTER shows in his report that the per capita debt of Eastern Cities is $62; that of the Middle States, $76; of the South, $56, and of the West, $33, which is the best of all. So much for the United States as a whole.

Of the 300 Cities reported, Ohio has 21, with a population of 760,363 persons. Their debt is $38,291,926, which makes it per capita a little over $50. The smallest debt per capita is Oregon, which amounts to only $4.35; the largest is Maryland, which reaches to within a few cents of $104. The following table will show just how each State of the Union stands with regard to the matter of bonded debt:

	No. Cities Reported	Population.	Total bonded debt.	Per capita.
EAST. STATES.				
Maine	8	116,099	$11,635,550	100 22
New Hamp	5	81,243	2,952,400	36 34
Vermont	3	23,515	607,900	25 85
Massachusetts	82	1,122,081	73,696,012	65 68
Rhode Island	6	181,556	11,414,750	62 91
Connecticut	13	256,900	12,846,550	43 22
Total	73	1,819,791	$113,163,189	62 18
MID. STATES.				
New York	95	2,550,152	$207,742,888	81 46
New Jersey	15	503,071	38,578,350	76 69
Pennsylvania	31	1,505,705	95,258,138	63 26
Delaware	1	42,695	1,372,450	32 29
Maryland	5	352,192	31,516,412	103 91
Total	75	4,953,823	$377,468,232	76 51
S'HERN STATES				
Virginia	1	155,980	$ 10,705,177	68 64
West Virginia	1	31,267	500,500	16 23
N. Carolina	1	17,500	500,500	28 58
S. Carolina	1	65,038	4,775,451	70 51
Georgia	1	100,800	8,587,000	83 15
Florida	1	9,500		
Alabama	1	55,410	3,492,500	62 70
Mississippi	1	11,81[illegible]	373,217	31 59
Louisiana	1	227,157	15,908,570	70 30
Texas	1	92,026	3,141,662	34 14
Arkansas	1	13,157	171,000	13 00
Kentucky	1	198,832	10,321,500	51 91
Tennessee	1	99,631	1,583,400	15 89
Total	35	1,077,498	$ 59,954,171	55 66
WEST'N STATES.				
Ohio	21	760,363	$ 38,291,926	50 36
Indiana	11	252,825	6,958,700	27 52
Illinois	1	779,241	18,500,638	24 14
Michigan	1	270,402	5,109,777	18 29
Wisconsin	1	228,595	3,668,000	16 16
Iowa	1	152,576	2,749,300	18 02
Minnesota	1	107,647	2,991,511	27 79
Missouri	1	607,871	26,178,444	55 95
Kansas	1	53,618	1,521,579	27 42
Nebraska	1	43,595	425,539	9 85
Colorado		50,450		
Nevada		13,703	112,000	$ 17
Oregon	1	17,578	76,500	4 35
California	6	281,097	7,055,118	21 77
Total	115	3,525,891	$113,751,326	32 28

Mr. PORTER deserves a great deal of credit for the thoroughness with which he is doing this work, the labor of which is simply enormous.

THE COTTON EXPOSITION.

It is proposed, as has been stated in the BLADE before, to hold an exposition in the interest of the cotton industry South, at Atlanta next October. The object is to bring together not only those who raise it, but also those who are engaged in the various departments of its manufacture. New England is exceedingly interested in the matter, and the probabilities are that there will be a large attendance from that section.

Some of those who have a most intelligent understanding of the matter say that there is no staple in the world so wastefully handled as this one. It is not half cared for either in its cultivation or thereafter. The most costly work done in the Northern factories is the removing of the dirt, sand and grit that has been allowed to get into it. It is estimated that the deterioration caused by this carelessness is fully 10 per cent. and it is utterly needless. Added to this loss in the value of the cotton itself, is the injury to the machinery of the mills caused by the neglect to clean the cotton of the fine dust that will get into it before it is compressed into bales. This can be done with far less labor at that time than after it is packed.

It has been thought that with returning prosperity to the South the factories of New England would be removed thither and everything pertaining to the industry centralize there. The probabilities are, however, that the energy and enterprise of that section will be directed to improvements in methods of raising, ginning and baling, as would be the wisest for them. Cotton planters are now feeling the necessity of such improvements and the exposition, if carried through, will do much in that direction.

There is no question but that the South has a most prosperous future before it if it takes advantage of its own natural resources, and lets the Lost Cause take care of itself. Besides its broad belt of cotton land, the best for the growth of that staple in the world, there are great stretches of woodland, acres upon acres of fruitful soil where fruit, grains and vegetables can be grown in abundance, and rich deposits of minerals. With the incubus of Slavery removed, and with the influx of active, enterprising settlers from the North, there is no reason why the next decade should not show a wonderful advance in wealth and everything that goes to make up a permanent prosperity.

"THE STRUGGLES OF NASBY."

This splendid book, containing over 600 pages, illustrated by NAST, with an introduction by CHAS. SUMNER, we are sending now to any address (so long as they last) at $1.25, postage paid. The book is a collection of the Nasby letters, from the beginning, in 1860, to the close of the Slavery struggle, with historical notes. It has never been sold for less than $3.00, but having withdrawn it entirely from the trade we close out the edition on hand at this price. The book and the BLADE one year for $2.50. The remaining volumes are going very rapidly, and those wanting one should send at once. It will be a very valuable volume ten years hence.

IRISH WRONGS.

It seems strange that any one in the United States can regret that PARNELL and his friends are free, or feel anything but sympathy with the Land League, which simply voices a great nation's protest against foul injustice and cruel wrong. There may be cases when, goaded by suffering, and with the lack of control which is apt to go with ignorance and squalid misery, intemperate violence on the part of these people can give cause for coercion. But compared to the provocation they have had, what has been done is really nothing.

While the British Ministry and Parliament are allowing precious time to slip away in considering what had best be done, in endless talks that amount to but little, the situation grows no better in Ireland, while the feeling of bitterness intensifies, and the determination to force a chagne strengthens.

A little look into the past of history shows plainly why the Land League exists to-day. The horrors that were enacted in the time of HENRY VIII and ELIZABETH when the lands of the native Irish were seized and divided among English adventurers, who immediately exacted enormous rents which naturally causes disturbances have been graphically described by FROUDE and others. Fire and sword, which spared neither old nor young, men, women nor children, were carried through the country, more lands were forfeited and the miserable inhabitants were driven to despair.

For a long series of years this was the kind of treatment to which the native Irish were subjected. Few among them owned the land they lived upon, but were for the greater part tenants of absent landlords, who resided in London. The annual drain which this entailed upon the country in 1838 had reached the enormous sum of £5,000,000. There was, and is as much as 2,000,000 of acres of bog land that might be reclaimed and made to yield something for this people, but no effort has been made by the Government to do it.

The history of the efforts of Irish members of Parliament to procure relief for their countrymen, has been that of discouragement. Year after year bills have been brought before that body looking to reform, and year after year rejected, while few have passed without some coersive measure to punish rebellious acts of a desperate people.

It is idle folly to talk about compelling submission before remedial legislation is undertaken. That is what has been done all these centuries. British states men recognize the fact that England has much to answer for. Lord DUFFERIN wrote to the Loudon *Times* in 1867:

> Some human agency or other must be accountable for the *perennial desolation* of a lovely and fertile island, watered by the fairest streams, caressed by a clement atmosphere, held in the embrace of a sea whose affluence fills the richest harbors of the world and inhabited by a race valiant, tender, generous, gifted beyond measure with the power of physical endurance, and graced with the liveliest intelligence.
>
> He says well that such a state of things could not be unless through some human agency, and that agency is the British Government. Any law that will allow 700 human beings to be driven out of their homes in one day, as was the case a few years ago in the County of Westmeath, their houses torn down, when, too, there were no rents unpaid, except by one man, is both cruel and inhuman. That this was so is stated in a pastoral letter written by the Bishop of Meath.
>
> The Irish people of the lower classes may be ignorant, passionate and violent, but they can never have an opportunity to improve and be what they are capable of becoming unless they are given the opportunity. This is what PARNELL and his associates are striving for. Whether PARNELL is the man he claims to be is not the question, but rather whether the Land League has right and justice upon its side.

CONVINCED AT LAST.

It is a most hopeful sign that Southern papers are beginning to criticize severely the course of Northern Democrats with reference to their section. They say, with truth, that when anything is asked for to improve Southern harbors or rivers Democrats invariably oppose it, while Republicans will do everything to carry it through. It has been so long an understood thing there that the latter were the enemies of that section, that the hatred engendered by the War was and would be a potent and controlling influence in their dealings with it, that they would not see the real truth. The worst thing which could have happened to it would have been a triumph last Fall; the best thing was just what did take place, and so the people, through their papers are beginning to acknowledge

The intense humiliation of defeat could not be wiped out in any other way than by obtaining the control of the Government, and therefore their efforts have all been directed to that, while golden opportunities for material advancement were lying at their very door unnoticed and uncared for. Meanwhile the country has been growing poorer and poorer. Even the industries which brought them competence of yore, were decaying and dying out for lack of that energetic pursuit that can alone insure success. The better class of people are waking up to these facts, and also to the truth that the party which they have hated is the one most ready to stand their friend and help them forward to prosperity. Adversity has had its use in bringing them to their senses after 16 years of foolish following of a party which has never cared or acted for their ultimate good.

SPEAKING about party factions, the *Capital* says:

> We never had a President who did not have a faction within three months from the day of his inauguration. Some of them have had factions of their own at the start, like Andrew Jackson. Some, having none of their own, have taken unto themselves the factions of others, as Taylor took that of the last great Kentuckian, and Buchanan the faction of Jeff. Davis. But they all have had factions, with, perhaps, the exception of Hayes, who comes as near as possible to being everybody's President.

THE *Capital* advises Gen. GARFIELD to avoid the Grant-Conkling faction which is "a motley assemblage of millionaires who want a 'stronger Government,' and diseased ex-office holders who want their former salaries restored; and all in bad odor with the people."

It would have him ally himself with the Blaine crowd where "he will find by far the bulk of the youth, vigor, *elan* and enterprise of the Republican party; and that, too, reinforced by no small contingent of the same or similar material belonging in other camps, but capable of a strategic movement on its own hook now and then in time of truce."

LAND HOLDING IN FRANCE.

The United States, notwithstanding its boasted prosperity, might learn a good many things from France. The latter is now, even though so few years have passed since the war with Germany, the richest country upon the face of the globe. While the peasantry may not be as generally intelligent as the farmers of a large part of our own land, as a whole, the common people are more thrifty, contented, and as a consequence happier.

There are several reasons for this which it would be well to think of. The Government there is no better or freer than our own. As is well known, it is not established upon as firm a basis. The struggle between the Church and the State is not yet ended, altho the latter has now the best of it, and will probably succeed in coming off victorious. But the tendency here, and it is a growing one, is to throng into Cities and live from hand to mouth, while the contrary is true in France. It is the Frenchman's ambition to own a little land. He works for that, saves for that, and the result is success. There are no great land monopolies, but the whole country is divided up into small farms, owned by those who live upon and cultivate them. They are independent and prosperous, have no landlords to grind them down for a rental greater than they can afford to pay, and consequently they become fore-handed and able to invest in the national bonds, which are all held by the people.

Another thing also has a strong influence in producing French prosperity. Besides their ambition to own land is their desire to provide for their children. To do this an extreme economy—or the people here would call it so—and thrift is necessary. They practice these their life long. Their children are taught the same virtues. It is not there as here the case that the successful acquiring of property at once begets a burning anxiety in the parents to lift their children into a higher position in society than they have occupied, thus necessitating a great increase of expenditure and the building up of luxurious tastes without the habits of industry needed to procure the means for their gratification. Though the children's future is provided for from their very cradle, they are brought up to live as their fathers have lived.

As said before there are no such immense land holdings as are found in other countries. The law obliges the Frenchman to divide his property equally among his children and this has two effects. It makes farms smaller and prevents the thronging to the cities of so many who must live either by the hardest and most precarious manual labor or by their wits, than which nothing can be more uncertain and dangerous. The laboring class in Paris and other large cities in France are perhaps more degraded and riotous than in our own, but there are lacking in the country as a whole many elements of disturbance which we have here. The spirit of wild speculation so rife in the United States from the millionaire down to the domestics in our households is unknown in France and constitutes one of its elements of safety for the future. Here the prevailing rule is risk all you have upon the possibilities of making great gains. There it is venture nothing in a game where the chances are not all upon your side.

It would be far better for the country could the desire to own land, to live upon one's own ground become more universal, thus thinning out the over abundant population of the Cities, and making many who are now a burden to the community in which they live, self supporting citizens. Then with our free Government, our boundless resources, our educational system, and the general intelligence of the people, there need be no limit to the progress of the nation.

PREVENTING EPIDEMICS.

The following petition has been sent us for publication:

> To the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:
>
> It is the policy of the American Government to foster discovery and invention by giving the authors a monopoly of their productions, but there are discoveries made of immense value to the public that a monopoly is worthless to the discoverers. Of this class is the discovery how epidemic diseases are propagated in man and the domestic animals.
>
> How to prevent is the object aimed at, and we earnestly ask Congress to offer a liberal reward for the discovery of how yellow fever is propagated, what the infection or disease germ consists of that is imported from the tropics, and afterwards carried from place to place where it will produce yellow fever. Provided that such discovery practically divests yellow fever of all its terrors by enabling persons to examine ships, houses, merchandize, baggage, clothing and mail matter, and know certainly whether or not it is clear of the infection, and know when they have successfully disinfected such articles and places.

Those sending it say:

> We ask the reader in examining the above petition to observe that it does not ask Congress to presume or contemplate that any discoveries are made, but it asks Congress to offer a liberal reward, provided certain benefits accrue to the public.
>
> Only those who understand the science can appreciate the importance of certain scientific discoveries when they are first told, and none of these discoveries can be explained to the public in short newspaper articles, yet dollars and cents fail to measure what they are worth to civilization and humanity. Franklin, after he made his discoveries in electricity, could not have made two per cent. of the people believe a telegraph possible. He never received a cent for his discoveries. They were purely scientific. Nobody believed success for Daguerre possible until after they seen the picture. Nobody believed a telephone possible until after they heard the voice transmitted. From that class of epidemic diseases in man and the domestic animals which are called sporadic (and how to determine whether a disease is sporadic or infectious), is propagated is to the medical fraternity an unsolved mystery, but there is not a doubt it can be solved if Congress will direct the attention of scientific men to it, by a sufficient reward to stimulate inquiry.

"NASBY STRUGGLES"—LIBRARY BINDING.

We have some inquiry for library binding of "Nasby Struggles." We happen to have on hand about 50 copies, which we can mail post-paid to the first applicants for $2.00. This edition retails at $4.00, and any book of the same style of binding cannot be purchased for less. The few copies we have on hand will not last a week after this notice is printed, and we would advise an order at once. Our supply of cloth is getting very low, and selling very rapidly at $1.25, post-paid by mail.

NEW BOOK CATALOG.

The BLADE will send a full catalog of their cheap books to any applicant. Remember the cheap books announced are to close out stock. After the present supply is exhausted the opportunity is gone.

WE don't care how many names of your friends you send us, to whom we may mail specimen copies of the BLADE. Every copy that goes out is seed sown.

THE SOUTH AMERICAN WAR.

The probable termination of the war in South America by the capture of Lima renders a little backward look upon the causes of the struggle and the condition of the States engaged exceedingly interesting. In truth very little was known in regard to them by the generality of people except in a general sort of way until after the breaking out of the war. To go back a little:

Bolivia is possessed of large guano deposits and extensive mines of saltpeter, which are of immense value and probably the largest in the world. Some time ago when unaware of the great amount of wealth they possessed in these, a treaty was made with Chili by which the latter was allowed to export saltpeter without a tax. Later, Bolivia demanded that one should be paid, but Chili refused and began to arm herself. At the same time Peru was making warlike preparations the ultimate aim of which was not understood. When, however, it was discovered that there was a secret treaty between her and Bolivia the matter was explained.

It will be remembered that some 18 months ago the United States, at the suggestion of Chili, whose people were averse to war, undertook the work of arbitration, which terminated unsuccessfully. The struggle was begun, and has only terminated after three severe campaigns, the principal events of which were the march to Antafagasta, the celebrated seaport of Bolivia, where are located the saltpeter mines; the taking of Calama, and the rout of the Bolivian forces, the battles of Lunta Sonesa, Angamos, Iquiqui, and the sinking of the "Independence;" the heroism of PRATT, the commander of the "Esmerelda," and the capture of the ships of war "Hauscar" and "Pilcomayo," which were followed by the taking of Iquiqui and Arica, in the Summer of 1880, the battle of Tacna, and the defeat of the Peruvian army, and finally the capture of Lima.

The result is somewhat of a surprise. The advantages seemed to be all upon the side of the allies, Peru and Bolivia. The people of the latter States double in number of those of Chili, are of the same race and supposed to be their equals in courage and all warlike qualities. Chili has been the invader, and was compelled to send her forces either by sea or across a belt of desert land which made military movements exceedingly difficult, and without the most determined effort, impossible. And yet in the face of all this Chili has come out the conqueror. She has effectually crushed the naval power of Peru, has gained possession of her capital, which is a terrible blow, since it takes from her practically her base of operations and depot of supplies. Her credit is gone, and her army broken up. Peru has borne the brunt of the war, and this has seemed to be the intention of Chili from the beginning, her policy being rather to conciliate Bolivia as far as possible and separate her from her ally.

Chili finds herself now in the position of dictator. She has won all for which the war was begun and more. She demands a cession of the desert mineral territory, an indemnity of $20,000,000 from Peru and $10,000,000 from Bolivia and the possession of the chief Peruvian seaport and the guano and saltpeter deposits as security for the payment of the money. Besides these advantages, which will go far towards making up her losses by the war, her currency is now at par, her bonds readily saleable, and her trade promising. Her future would seem to be a most brilliant one.

A question of some importance to other nations under the present aspect of affairs is in regard to the payment of the debts of Peru. The principal income, indeed almost the only one she has of any consequence, is derived from the guano and saltpeter deposits. If these are turned wholly towards paying the indemnity to Peru, her European creditors will not have an encouraging prospect. British bondholders have already sent agents to Chili to see what can be done, and as the latter will not desire to antagonize other and more powerful nations, the probabilities are that she will enter into some satisfactory arrangements by which the debts can be liquidated.

FERNANDO WOOD.

No man of his prominence ever went down to the shadow of the grave with more contemptuous indifference from the Nation than FERNANDO WOOD. A man of unusual ability—for 50 years a power in New York politics; for 40 years a member of Congress, several times Mayor of New York City, and always successful in his enterprises, he will still be remembered simply because his name appears on the rolls of Congress and elsewhere. The reason is that he was a pre-eminently selfish man, heading all his powers to gain purely personal ends, and employing the worst means for that purpose. He was a master of all the arts and corrupt devices of a New York politician, and he used them with a conscienceless ness that was only equaled by his skill and vigor in applying them. His overawing Democratic conventions in the '50's, with gangs of shoulder hitters led by JOHN C. HEENAN and the like, was the introduction of tactics that his successors have adopted and improved upon, just as TWEED learned from him the first principles of the science of plundering New York City. WOOD retired from the Mayoralty of the City with a fortune of million or more, which was quite considerable for those days. WOOD, in common with the class in New York of which he was the representative, had no sympathy whatever with the Government during the War. He went so far as to urge the secession of New York City, and its setting up in business as a free City, on the model of Frankfort, Hamburg and other German independent Cities. His brother BEN WOOD, a great lottery agent and manager, was the owner of the News, the organ of the criminal classes in New York and a most rabid Secession sheet. It even defended WIRZ, and denounced the Government bitterly for its "brutality" in trying and executing him.

There may have been worse men in our higher politics for the last 40 years than FERNANDO WOOD, but we do not recall any at this moment.

"ANDERSONVILLE."

The book "Andersonville" should be in the library of every loyal citizen of the United States. It is the only authentic record of that most horrible crime against humanity ever printed, and it is written in so graphic a style as to possess all the fascination of a work of fiction.

It has had the largest sale of any book published for years, but there is yet good territory that has not been worked. The book is a handsome volume of over 600 pages, profusely illustrated, and sells faster than any book on the market. It is sold only by subscription, and agents make better salaries than with any book ever sold in this way. Full particulars will be sent to any address free. Address, for terms, etc. Locke Publishing Co., Toledo, O., or Boston, Mass.

NASBY.

LETTER FROM HARPIES.

Working for More Robbery of the Treasury—Efforts to Defeat Commissioner Bentley's Bill—Three Curious Letters.

New York Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—The Pensions appropriation bill is upon the Senate calendar, and will probably be called up next week. An understanding was reached in the Appropriation Committee that Senator Withers, Chairman of the Pensions Committee, should move to add to the Appropriation bill, as an amendment, the measure still known as the "Sixty Surgeons bill," providing a reorganization of the machinery for the adjudication of pension claims.

The pension claim agents are, as might be expected, acting in concert, and vigorously in opposition. For several weeks they have been sending circulars to pensioners and pension claimants in all parts of the country, beseeching in italic and "small caps" that haste be made in getting signatures to inclosed petions against the measure. Three of these circulars have come into the possession of a correspondent of the *Tribune*.

The first is signed by "The *National Tribune* Company. The *National Tribune* is the advertising sheet of a large Washington claim agency. It describes the measure as calculated merely to furnish additional positions for clerks, and to hinder and delay the settlement of claims. It says: "Procure as rapidly as possibly the signatures of parties interested. Let the petitions sent herewith be signed in duplicate, and as soon as possible let them be sent by mail; one to your Senator and one to your Representative in Congress."

The second circular bears the lithographed signature of George E. Lemon, one of the most extensive operators in pension claims in the world. He characterizes the measure as a monstrosity which would unsettle the security of each and every pension heretofore granted. He quotes a resolution passed by the State Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic of Pennsylvania in 1879, pronouncing the recommendations of the Commissioner of Pensions impracticable but he fails to add that this resolution was gotten up by claim agents, and that the same organization one year later passed a resolution heartily approving the efforts of Commissioner Bentley. "Get the largest possible list of signatures of ex soldiers and sailors," Mr. Lemon says in his circular, "and let each one state the organization to which he belonged. By all means work rapidly, so that the petitions can be sent by you, one to your member of Congress, and one to one of your United States Senators, before the 25th of January, 1881, if possible, but if not, as soon thereafter as practicable."

The third circular is still more ingenious and interesting. It first sets forth the hardships to which pensioners and pension claimants will be subjected by the passage of this bill, and then marks out the steps necessary to be taken to prevent so great a calamity as follows:

First—All claimants who have not paid any portion of our fee should send the registered letter or postoffice money order for the entire fee, $10, or as much of it as they can possibly spare. Those who have already paid a part of the fee are requested to send us the balance or a portion of it.

Second—You should write two copies of the following letter (if it is correct) sign the same and address one to your Senator and the other to your Representative, and mail both letters to Washington at once:

"The Hon. ——, Washington, D. C.:

DEAR SIR:—I am an applicant for pension, and live at ——, in your District. If the Senate bill No. 496 becomes a law I shall not be able to prove up my claim, because it will be impossible for me to get my witnesses before the Pension Court, as I could not pay their expenses. I beg you to do all you can to defeat that bill and all others like it. My claim is just, and I don't care how many spies or detectives come down to investigate it, but if Mr. Bentley's bill becomes a law I will have to give it up and lose the pension I am entitled to. Only a person with money could prove up a claim under the law, and a person with money don't need a pension. Please don't let the bill pass and I will always thank you. Very respectfully, ——

In copying the above write the Senator's or Representative's name after the word "Hon.," and also fill in your post office address after the word "at." Sign your name below the words "very respectfully." Please don't delay. Write your letter immediately, and comply with our instructions and we will do all in our power to advance your interests.

Very respectfully,
RICHARD P. EVANS & CO.

Postage for reply should be inclosed with letters of inquiry.

The touching individuality of the letter to the Hon. —— can hardly fail to have an influence upon the minds of Senators and Representatives in Congress. The pension legislation hitherto has been shaped to a great extent by pension-claim agents. The result is found in the $500,000,000 prospective expenditure for arrearages alone, and the 12 or 13 years' work already accumulated in the Pension Office. Senator Withers and his eight associates of the Senate Committee on Pensions think it is time for a change.

HOW IT ONCE WAS.

The Dignity that Formerly Pervaded Congressional Proceedings.

Washington Correspondence Cleveland Leader.

In 1857, when the Senate was discussing the count of Wisconsin, Gen. SAM HOUSTON, made a few remarks, during which some Senators were conversing together. The old soldier then called to the reading of the second rule, which prohibited conversation while a Senator was speaking. Sen. Houston then said: "I seldom speak in this body, and I do not ask for the reading of this rule with relation to myself; but I desire to hear what is going on. I suggest that hereafter the Sergeant-at-Arms put those of this Chamber every person who will not speak sufficiently loud to be heard above the voice of the speaker. Sir, I well remember the august and solemn appearance of this body some twenty years ago when the fathers sat here. There was something awful in its appearance.

OLD DR. CARLIN'S RECIPES.

This book, though not yet out, is having a wonderful success. Agents report very large sales, which they say they procure without trouble. The book is the work of old Dr. CARLIN, of Bedford, England, edited for American homes, and brought down to date, by one of the most competent American writers on domestic economy. It is peculiarly and conveniently classified, and contains more reliable matter than any book of recipes ever published. And in addition to this, it is the latest and contains all the latest discoveries and processes. Every recipe in the book has been thoroughly tested. Persons of either sex out of employment will do well to address a postal to Locke Publishing Co., Toledo, O., or Boston, Mass. Full particulars will be sent upon application.

DAKOTA people are rejoicing over the absence of the snow blockades which have so disturbed the East. One writer from there says that the long line of road from St. Paul to Bismarck has been uninterrupted the whole Winter, and there has not been a single mail along the 500 miles along the Northern Pacific which has been delayed an hour by snow. It is refreshing to hear such a report from some quarter.

THEY say that Pres. HAYES always draws his salary in advance.

CURRENT EVENTS.

It is said that vast fields of gold have been discovered in Alaska.——England proposes to send a regiment of 1,700 colored troops from Barbadoes to the Gold Coast, officered by Englishmen.——Milwaukee has passed an ordinance assessing its horse railroad companies $5,000 a year for each mile of the streets on which their track is laid.——A bowler in a Cleveland alley had a ball poised to roll, when a bystander made an insulting remark, and he threw it violently at the offender, killing him by fracturing his skull.——Mrs. J. L. Nichols committed suicide at Carthage, Mo., by jumping into a well before the family were up. She was the sister of Miss Hogg, of Bloomington, Ill., who suicided at Mrs. Nichol's house some time ago. She had twice before attempted to kill herself. Her father also met his death at his own hands.——A little boy at Richmond, Ind., was out coasting and when discovered late in the evening he was unconscious, and would have frozen to death but for prompt assistance rendered.——Small-pox is raging in Brooklyn and in Long Island——Minnie F. Lee, aged 9, of Newark, N. J., bitten by a dog a month ago, is wild with hydrophobia. Her two brothers were bitten by the same dog at the same time. The father is overwhelmed with grief, and it is feared his mind is unsettled by the shock.——A party of 25 wealthy men from Shelby, Johnson and Bartholomew Counties, Ind., have gone to Dallas, San Antonio and Austin, Texas, where they will go to prospecting, with a view to locating a colony.——A new telegraph line is proposed from New York to Chicago, which will be tapped at Toledo by a line to Cincinnati and the South.——For some time past the authorities have been missing large quantities of mail matter on the route between Rochester and Chicago, and Thursday a mail agent named Leist was arrested and a large quantity of the stolen property was found in his possession.——In Millbridge, Me., at the house of Capt. Means, there is a little girl nine years old, who comes from one of the cannibal islands of the Pacific. An American vessel called there for water, and the natives brought the child to the Captain for his dinner, offering to prepare her properly. The Captain bought her, but said he would prefer to kill his own meat, and so brought her home. She still believes she will be killed and eaten, and when strangers enter the house she clings to Mrs. Means, and begs not to be taken away.——Algeria is beginning to develop a taste for the fine arts. Not long ago the success of the exhibition at Algiers took every one by surprise, and now another, which has been organized at Oran, is equally successful. "The pictures sold," says an enthusiastic correspondent, "as if by enchantment."——The Chicago Sabbath Association has undertaken to enforce the Sunday law in that City. "The complaint is not so much that people work on Sunday," says the society's circular, "but that they play. It is against sinful recreation that we are moving." It is customary to open the Chicago theaters on Sunday evenings though there is a law against it.——Garfield intended going to Washington immediately after the electoral count but has changed his mind and won't go now until the first of March.——A box forwarded to Montreal as poultry, over the Occidental Railroad, from St. Phillip, has been found by the police to contain a decomposed corpse. There is no clue as to who the forwarder was, or as to the identity of the corpse.——There was an unprecedented snow fall in the Northwest during the latter part of last week.——Poti, recently Phasis, the Russian town and harbor in the Black Sea, at the mouth of the Caucasian river Rion, which was also formerly called Phasis, is at present wholly under water, even in the highest parts of the town, to the depth of two feet. In consequence of this inundation the position of the inhabitants, about 4,000 in number, appears to be most deplorable, and the destruction of or damage to merchandise destined for transmission to Tiflis—of which city Poti is the port—is said to be immense.——An opium syndicate has been organized in Philadelphia and purposes running a corner on the drug.——The latest telegraph scheme is to bring the Canadian system into the Western Union Consolidation.——Lee was a Captain of police in St. Louis a few years ago, and Boland a Sergeant under him. Lee was a disciplinarian, and by his strictness made an enemy of Boland. Lately Boland was, through political influence, made a Commissioner. One of his first acts was to remove Lee from the command of an important precinct to one in the suburbs. The disgrace has driven Lee insane.——C. Caley, a Cincinnati man, who had always been a heavy drinker, reformed suddenly and refused to take liquor of any kind. The sudden change in his habits unsettled his mind and he is now a maniac.——Kansas enjoyed the luxury of an extensive snow storm last week.——Long Island Sound was completely enveloped in fog Friday, and was filled with large cakes of floating ice, making navigation so dangerous that the steamers could not make their regular trips on time.——The deadlock on the Pennsylvania Senatorial question still continues.——The Christians of Macedonia are leaving on account of ill-treatment.——James C. Burnham, the oldest American merchant in Cuba, died at Havana.——The first meeting of the Ladies' Land League was held in Claremorris, Ireland.——The Basutos have been accorded one week's armistice by the Government of Cape Colony.——Representative Cox is confident that the apportionment bill will pass this session. He believes the basis will be 307 Congressmen.——At Ottawa the Pacific Railway bill passed its third reading, 34 to 17.——One hundred seamen have been ordered to the Transvaal from Sherness, to

Correspondence.

BOSTON LETTER.

The New Spring Fabrics.

Correspondence Toledo Blade.

BOSTON, Feb 13.

Already the days have opened their first goods for the new year of fashion, which begins in Spring. By the calendar and all signs of the weather prophets, there will be plenty of time for making up light suits for Summer before the price of regular Spring sewing. The style of these thin dresses varies so little from year to year, except in the printed figure, that it is easy to dispatch them before the new and weightier fashions come over by the April steamers. By all accounts, it will be long enough before they are wanted, for what says the old rhyme—

"In winter's snow on Candlemas day,
So far's a snow-ball's flay,"

and the third of February was keen and clouded as if to forbid the shadow of doubt on the cold skin.

THE FIRST SILK SALES

lead the new year, coming off just after stock-taking and by the prices, every voter's wife may have a silk gown of some sort this year. The large figured brocaded satin and brocade in silks proper in all the admired patterns of the year, fern-leaf and arabesque, palm, olive and fig designs, cactus, pomegranate and acacia, rich and lustrous, hold last Spring at $4 and $5, are now selling for $2.50, $2.75 and $3. Soft brocades in fruit patterns, small dots and leaves are of excellent quality at $2, and a really good brocade can be had as low as $1.50. The Cheney brocades, in two colors, bronze and purple or brown, blue and bronze, two shades of heliotrope, garnet and black, or red and dull gold are $1.25 a yard, at the leading shops here, where I think prices are decidedly lower than in New York for certain lines of goods. The broads are in no means going out of favor, as many believed from this sudden fall of prices, but silks are lower that for three years past, and possibly than they may be three months from now. The long princess house dress, entirely of brocade in one of the flowering patterns is a handsome style which will not immediately go out of date, and ladies are making it a standard addition to their wardrobes. A breadth requires little or no trimming, beyond the band worn with every good dress, and suits the style of luxurious simplicity which is developing and giving stability to fashions.

FINE COTTON MATERIALS.

Choice is more difficult than ever, over the delicately fine Spring cambrics and satines. For all the year round housekeeping dresses, which one wants to always look well, but stand any amount of washing, taste must be suited with the cambrics in rather dark bronze and brown or purple grounds, with buff, amber, or bright dark red enriching the half shades. The old fashioned dark blue with small white dots is a pattern and quality, sad this with various Indian figures shown in three different shadings of blue, the deep indigo, a middle tint like that of old blue china and a still lighter, but delicate dull blue, equally far from sky blue, Marie Louise or Turquoise, but more useful and becoming. There is something very attractive in these old fashioned simple patterns in the softest and finest of cambrics, with true border and stripes, large, dots or Indian figures in white. Dresses made up from these figures of these charming materials, and half or all over to dress entirely in cottons for the season. The colored percales have the ground well covered with small patterns of heather sprig and berries, hawthorne or holly, with minute berries touched in bright colors, in tones as useful as they are pretty, but they cannot need to be sent to the washtub for every two or three days' wear. Such gowns are advised for all who take the care of their own wardrobes, as they require to be made in the simplest fashion, are done up without the slightest starch, and their colors are of a kind which neither sun or soap seriously effects. The quality of all these cottons is far finer than those of last year, both for close work and the price, from 20 to 25 cents a yard for cambrics, is really much cheaper, since the quality is advanced.

MOHIR CLOTHS AND SATINES.

Hardly anything can be imagined more attractive than the mohir cottons, which are so fine that the seedlike armure finish is not detected, with bloom and coloring which would pass for china crape. The patterns in these fabrics are for gala dresses mostly, the choicest being rows of rose color, or forget-me-not bins, at $8 a dress, which contains several yards of closely figured material, with border for the jacket and sashes, plain pink or blue good, bordered, for combination, and still other yards entirely plain of the same tint, to be variously used in relieving the suit. Mohir cottons are hardly satisfactory in dark colors or for dresses expected to wash. Preference is given to the satines, which are the very finest, most lustrous goods made out of cotton. These are sure to be the choice of the season, and come in the widest variety of colors, to please all tastes. From the bottle-green strewn with white and purple Spring flowers, with plenty for skirting of the plain dark green, to the bright buff and red small figured India patterns, such as are seen on old-fashioned silk handkerchiefs, and the delicate English designs, from the best of the China patterns chambray, small knots of flowers from a Swansea or Delft chain. These are 40 and 45 cents a yard, and each dress combines the figured and bordered material with the entirely plain. Very fine figured printed pairs in cords and lozenge stamping are shown in small quantity, but are likely to be more in request later in Spring.

NEW GINGHAMS.

The plain Chambery ginghams in dull rankin blues, unfading pink and lilac, are old favorites which will revive the fashions of tucked yokes and skirts with which they were originally made. The fine Scotch ginghams show Roman stripes and fancy plaids, in which sunny red and buff are cooled with pale blues. Many check ginghams with plaid borders are shown, and wale gray or olive plaids in solid colors, with cross bars and red or pink and blue plaid borders. This gingham will rank next to satine for Summer, the latter being well made in garden dresses for simple folks, while the gingham invites the wear for morning suits. Lawn tennis material is a very fine unbleached cotton, with woven black stripes in solid colors, red, turquoise blue and navy blue. It will be seized for skirtings or borderings for plain material. For lawn sons, it is made up with petticoat of brown or black velveteen with cord effect. The first wool fabrics are small in the plaid's pieces, in black and gray, with wine barred borders, which are the last trace of the basket-checked style. Figured cashmeres in camel's hair twills in russet and reds or the dull olive and purplish tints of young smooth bark as the sap mounts, will be appropriate suitors to the end of March. Illness is a fashionable artistic color now, blending with green, purple and red or blue, while it is more serviceable than the light fawn shades which are growing shabby on the streets.

NEW UNDERWEAR.

There certainly is little more occasion for women to trouble themselves with the needle for common supplies, for the regular openings of white ready-made goods this month show quantities of well made garments at prices which hardly cover the price of material in common hands. When a nightdress of fairly good cotton, with collar and double yoke set off with ruffles or narrow Hamburg edging, can be had for 65 cents, and an embroidered chemise with the requisite number of fine tucks and gussets for the same, many women will find it to their interest to let the burden of sewing drop. Every article of woman's girls' or children's wear is now supplied in neat quality at the smallest profits, which are not worth mentioning against the toil of home sewing. Row upon row of trim underwear line the aisles of the large houses, and the garments are well shaped, strongly and tolerably made, in a manner which is a great improvement on the ready-made goods first turned out, though it never will have the finish a good seamstress puts on her own work. Girl's outfits are especially nice, in soft cottons, with clusters of tiny tucks and narrow edges of small embroidery, and in close scrutiny which finds any blemish in fine and stitching.

The new chemises are made with the yoke of alternate straps of embroidery and clusters of tucking in the back as well as in front, and the plain sleeve is of double cotton, for strength, with two or three rows of cordstitching near the edge, and a slope on the top like a looped sleeve, or better, is a mere foundation for the embroidered edging. The puffed and gathered sleeves which are such a nuisance to iron, are old fashioned, as they look bunchy under the close dress sleeve. The best models in hand-made sets of linen cambric, are close sacque chemises with the sleeve in one with the garment, going away with yokes, gores and setting in of all kinds, and adding as much to the wear of the piece. Insertion of fine embroidery with a narrow ruffle of lace all round each strap, with clusters of tucks, takes the form of a yoke, pointed in front. A few have square shirt fronts of lace and tucks. The drawers have clusters of very fine tucks and insertion with a lace ruffle below, or a wide band, two fingers deep of straps of lace and needle work with lace ruffle above and below. All wear is shaped as closely, and admits as little fulness as possible. A great deal of Irish crochet and knitted linen lace is worn for trimming the garments. Smooth shoe-thread is used for these hand-made edgings, and there is a yellow half bleached linen thread sold in skeins which has the best possible tinge for such work.

THE BOSTON DECORATIVE ART SOCIETY.

I am loth to draw comparisons, but the truth forces itself upon me that in artistic feminine crafts the Boston women lead in excellence of work, and refinement of taste. The Art Rooms fronting a sunshiny three cornered square, with an ivy grown wall with swallows darting in and out its meshes at the back, holds such store of patient exacting needle work and lively fancy that I had fain copy every piece to tell you about some novelty of fancy or execution.

The traditions of the needle have not left Boston, and some pieces approached those wonderful foreign embroideries which women here will never have the patience to equal in full.

A novelty was a mantel hanging of large white set of tatting in Macramé thread, put together in large bars over red velvet, in bold handsome fashion. A child's apron of the fashionable English smock shape, with yoke, sewed in satine, embroidered in little sprigs dropped, or as the embroiderers say, powdered all over the tiny garment. A pretty piece for its charming taste and workmanship was a hand bag of gray satin bedropped with the tiniest sprigs of holly with vivid red berries, more needlepoints of color exquisitely wrought. A screen of Cherokee roses worked on pale blue satin was effective as painting, and there were two pieces of the Italian ribbon work, where the leaves and petals are stitched of narrow-est ribbon drawn through the silk ground. A fashion of edging table covers and mantel hangings was easy and will be caught up by those who dislike work. An olive cloth cover had a band of ruby cloth cat-stitched under the border, and the cloth of both colors was cut into a flat fringe, a finger in width, showing the red under the olive in pretty contrast. This is a sort of "cut-work" very easy to imitate. Every sort of old-fashioned work is sought out and studied for new ideas. One piece of tape work was effective over dark velvet for mantle trimming. The Italian apron of crash is merely a long towel cut out to pass over the head, with straps on the shoulders, the ends fringed and embroidered in green and yellow crewels, a fashion quite as serviceable as artistic.

SUSAN POWER.

LETTER FROM BUCKEYE.

The Election of Garfield and Arthur Officially Declared—The River and Harbor Bill Stuck in the Mud—The Low Grounds on the Potomac Opposite Washington—Senator's Butler and Conkling—The Appointment.

Correspondence of the Blade.

WASHINGTON, Feb 11, 1881.

The votes were counted yesterday according to the program adopted by Congress. The process was long and tedious, and those who went up to the Capitol to witness it generally got tired and left before the work was completed. It is sufficient that it resulted in the declaration that James A. Garfield and Chester A. Arthur were declared duly elected. We may therefore look for the inauguration on the 4th of March. An amusing incident in the count was that Senator Hamlin, one of the tellers on the part of the Senate, onteral Vermont and some other Republican States in the Hancock column and came near electing the wrong man. But it was a blunder easily corrected and was not permitted to change the verdict of the American people.

The election of Gen. Garfield having been finally declared, the way is cleared of one important obstruction, and Congress can now go on and complete the appropriations, if it does not get in another political wrangle. But the course of Congress, like that of true love, does not always run smooth. It was, for instance, arranged to pass the River and Harbor Appropriation bill, which appropriates variously millions at one little, off-hand jerk, by means of suspension of the rules—a process which cuts off debate and forces an immediate vote. But it was arranged that a debate of half an hour should be conceded, and S. S. Cox, of New York, the carpet-bagger from the Newark district of your State, noticed that there was a good chance to make a point against the bill, and having the floor accorded to him for few minutes, he made some characteristic remarks, which, for the time being, crucified it.

He ridiculed the idea of passing such a bill on a discussion of half an hour, which, he said, was at the rate of $65,000 per second. He then went on to show that the bill was a game of grab to help individual members in their reelection. He said one member had told him that he should vote against the bill because it gave him only $104; another told him he would vote for it because it gave him $300,000. Then he had observed that the 15 gentlemen on the committee had all contrived to take excellent care of their own States, and had, in fact, divided the larger part of the grants up between themselves. It was, he said, a mighty good committee to be on. His friend, Mr. Reagan, got $750,000; Mr. Bliss, $469,000; Mr. Ross, $271,000; Mr. McLane, $181,000; Mr. Thomas Tucker, $310,000; Mr. Ackles, $232,000; Mr. Beale, $256,000; Mr. Dexter, $418,000; Mr. Clardy, $630,000; Mr. O'Neil, $474,000; Mr. Wait, $188,000; Mr. Henderson, $202,000. Mr. Townsend, Mr. Ochiltree, $200,000; Mr. Russell, $240,000, and Mr. Kenna, $270,000. In the aggregate the States represented by those vigilant, splendid statesmen got $5,060,000.

Mr. Steele: How much does North Carolina get?

Mr. Cox: North Carolina is not represented on the committee. It is not likely it got very much.

Mr. Cox, in his further remarks, said that the bill appropriated $2,000,000 more than was called for in the estimates, a statement which was stoutly denied by Mr. Reagan. Mr. Cox said that he would like to see some way of improving certain large harbors and rivers, but he was opposed to large appropriations for the improvement of small creeks.

The facts presented by Mr. Cox were so characteristic of the utter selfishness which permeated members in arranging this notable scheme of what is known among Western men as "log rolling," that when the vote was taken the bill failed to get the necessary two-thirds. It will come up again in some other shape and be passed, but for the present it is what Andrew Johnson would call "a dead duck." A great effort was made to get an appropriation in this bill for filling up the flats in the Potomac, in front of Washington. These flats and cut off the navigation of the river, to are a fruitful source of malarious diseases which more or less infect the river line and sometimes extend far into the City. But members who wanted to get large appropriations for their Districts to help them with their constituents were quite indifferent as to what took place at the National Capital, and so the effort failed. The District has no member to grab for it.

The scene between Sen. Butler of South Carolina, and Sen. Conkling, of New York, seems to show that the days of Southern domineering are over. Butler's speech was intended to be insulting and was expected to provoke a quarrel, with the advantages on the side of Southern insolence. He is rather an adept in a certain kind of sharp and polished sarcasm, which probably made him feel that he had nothing to fear from a reply. But when the short and crisp answer was given it exhibited such supreme and overmastering contempt as could not fail to cut deep into Southern pride. In old times there would have been a complete row, and leaving

The Household.

CORRESPONDENTS writing for this department will please observe the following rules:

1. Write "Household Department" on the envelope.
2. Give real name and Postoffice address—not for publication, unless you wish—but for reference in case it is necessary to address you by mail.
3. Write only on one side of the paper; write plainly as possible, and do not interline.
4. Be as brief as the nature of the subject will allow.

A Letter.

The following we clip from a long and earnest letter, written not for publication but as a personal reply to what we said a week or two ago in regard to domestic service:

I would like to tell a little of my own experience in going out to work or service. The last place I lived at was a boarding house, and I hope it will be the last I will ever have to go to do housework. I was told that it was a very nice place. I went, and agreed to work for $2 per week, as I am not very strong. A little girl showed me to my room. Oh! how I felt when I saw the place where I was to rest my weary frame after the hard day's labor. I could call it nothing better than a box made of rough boards on the top floor in the open space near the stairway. There was no sign of a window even outside of the room. A dim light shone in through the cracks and about the door. The pen contained a miserable bed, not even clean; the ragged clothing was tumbled every way to make things look worse if possible, and on the top of the bed stood a filthy old chair—there was no other place for it in the room—and on the top of that was a filthy old lamp and some other things in like condition. On the floor was a piece of ragged carpet that could scarcely be seen for dust. There was no place for a trunk or anything else. On one side were a few nails not near enough to hang my garments on.

I had to hang my hat and cloak in that nasty dusty pen. I had to dispense with my daily bath entirely as there was no room in my pen, nor bath-room in the house. Neither was there a basin at my disposal.

The mistress of a household who could put a girl into such a "pen" is not deserving of the name of woman. That there are many like her, coarse, ignorant and selfish, we do not doubt. Nor is it any wonder after an experience like this, that our words regarding the desirability of domestic service should seem like a mockery. But we cannot understand how an intelligent, efficient girl could have *frequent* repetitions of such an experience. In our own circle of acquaintance we know of not one place where such a state things would be possible, while we can count many in which all the comforts of a home would be given to a faithful servant.

There is no question, however, but that good, kind women sometimes grow careless about their arrangements for their "help," simply from the fact that their kindness is so often abused. The poorer class of girls make no effort to keep their rooms in order. They ruthlessly destroy whatever is good, and dirt is the rule and not the exception. The mistress finally comes to feel that it is a useless waste of time and money to fix them up and acts accordingly.

Consideration of the letter quoted from above simply brings us back to our first position, that of the urgent necessity of thorough preparation for work and fitness for its doing. Skilled labor will always bring a fair price in normal times. The poor girl who so pathetically relates her experience says of herself that she was weak and nervous, evidently unfit for domestic service, more especially in a second or third rate boarding house. Of course she failed to give satisfaction, and broke herself down still further. But had she been a thoroughly trained cook or housekeeper she could have commanded a much better position with less tax upon her physical powers.

There must always be hewers of wood and drawers of water among women as well as among men. There must always be those who have neither the will nor the brain to do aught save the coarser kinds of manual labor, and the number of these is increased yearly by the untaught foreigners brought to our shores. Their unskilled fingers bungle with the machinery of our homes, while there are delicate deft hands which could run it, if guided by a skilled eye and brain, to their own benefit and that of their employers.

We do not mean that all girls who must earn their living should enter domestic service. Far from it. That would be as absurd as for all men to become carpenters, or masons, or merchants, or lawyers. But this was our thought: There are many whose tastes are domestic, who like cooking, and directing the machinery of a household, and who would be more successful at that than at sewing, waiting in a store, etc., and we deprecated the idea that it was not just as honorable while it would often pay better.

The point is this as we have said before and repeat now: Give girls in schools business ideas as well as boys, then let them choose their occupation and be trained for it, and they will stand upon the same footing. Energy, skill and industry will command the best places, while ignorance and sloth must take the poorest.—ED. HOUSEHOLD.

On the Other Side.

Ha! ha! ha! Do any of THE HOUSEHOLD care to know what that ringing laugh is for? Do you give it up? Well it is a hard conundrum, surely, but it is just because I am "tickled." Is it not encouraging that we are of such a progressive nature that it only took, according to Bibliothical history, 6,000 years, though perhaps science would generously allow us 6,000,000 to become advanced sufficiently to be compared with "hens, and roosters, turkey hens and gobblers," and I will kindly suggest that our worthy opponent be permitted a full range of the said parties' premises, and as they become advanced in self respect may the pig sty, cattle yard and sheep-pen be added, reserving the right to us of the common herd to have an occasional glimpse.

The above partakes so much of the jeering, "pulling teeth" spirit, that I am quite at a loss whether it were not better burn this rather than trouble "Our Editor" to cast it into the "waste basket." But considering the impartiality with which all have been treated, I will take the risk. I think that "Interested," spoke to the point, and I am confident the intelligent and sensible part of the HOUSEHOLD will endorse it. Even admitting that her "profession" has not allowed her to observe very closely, she shows more than an average amount of judgment in her interesting article, and I hope to hear from her again.

Seeing that it is so absolutely necessary for some to refer to primitive precedents, if we take the Bible as it reads, that "innocent Adam" must have been of the "namby pamby" sort, too afraid to have asked a woman to have had him, and that is probably the reason why Eve was made to hand and brought to him, and according to the same authority, Eve was the first human being who made an advancement, when she asked him to partake of the forbidden fruit. Now, if we of the 18th century are to be governed by the examples of the very first of the human species, it is a self evident fact that the above is incontrovertible.

I will say to "Shanty Boy" that I think "Marion" is all right, and it is more than probable that she was not so anxious to get married as some have judged her to be, and who knows but what if those who are so solicitous of corresponding with her would come out in an independent manner, and give their address, they would obtain their desire. She has patiently borne the criticism of the "Grundy" family, and for the purpose of giving her "ears time to cool," I am tempted to say that I am a widow, but I cannot truthfully say, as the girls do, that I am young. So I fear that I shall not relieve her much, but will show my good will.

I would like to know if those "dozen of fellows" deputised "Wm. Irwin" to "speak" for them or is he just judging them by himself? If so of course, it is a righteous judgment so far as he is concerned, but I would like to know how it is with the others. If it is as represented I hope "Marion" will appoint me one of her "guards" then I would like to get them in range of some precipice of 1,000 feet or so in height, so as to develop their jumping proclivities as well as their running. But truth to tell, I think we have an unexceptionable happy family for one so large, which no doubt is attributable in the main to its wise "Head." How I would like to shake hands with all—even with those who "wouldn't vote if they could"—for then I could tell my experience of opposition to "woman's suffrage and rights." That was when I had a good home but the gross wrong and injustice which I have encountered in the past, has changed my mind on the subject so that I am radical on the question as the most radical can desire. But I like to read their arguments, all the same, for variety is the spice of life, and enlarges our mental perceptions. Many thanks are due to the host of friends who are championing our rights, and still there is room for more. I wish all the readers of THE HOUSEHOLD would write to our President elect, asking him to kindly remember the woman's suffrage question in his first inaugural, thereby establishing a precedent. I did write to him soon after his nomination and before I had seen his words, which I quoted in my article in the BLADE'S issue of December 9, 1880. C. G. L. BUCKINGHAM.

Caro, Mich.

The Other Side.

In "Home Letter" of the BLADE issue of December 23, the inquiry is made with intense earnestness: "Are the old fashioned help all dead?" Far from it. The hills and dales of the East, and the broad prairies of the West, are abounding in just such materials as the author of "Home Letter" is endeavoring to persuade from their neighborhood of narrow chances, to accept "food and shelter" in the City kitchens. Let us, for a moment, consider this imaginary "help" from the country so passionately desired. They are daughters of well to do farmers and mechanics, raised in all the privileges of common schools and academies, as well as household duties, many of them being as well versed in the use of that almost indispensible article of furniture in country homes, the piano or organ, as the broom or duster.

They are accustomed also to meet their friends and neighbors in the lecture room, the lyceum, the singing school, and other places of instruction or amusement, so long as they remain in their country homes, or till old enough to look out for themselves. We will imagine one of these, attracted by "home letter," glowing with descriptions of City kitchens, on the point of applying for a situation. But wishing to get all the information possible, she continues reading and soon learns "what employers want," or rather what they do not want. A servant must not be a "chatterer or a gossip," must be quick with the senses of sight, hearing and speech, which are only to be used at the mistress's direction. And when the "nimble fingers" have completed the morning duties erased the "grime from the paint" and "stickiness from door knobs," dislodged the "dust from the top of the door mouldings," etc., by two o'clock she may then retire to her room, good enough, no doubt, but the most lonely and out of the way of of any in the house, perhaps over the stable, as are some servant's rooms I wot of. Having been accustomed hitherto to the use of books, papers and magazines of the day, she dare not take one from the drawing-room or library, to beguile a lonely hour, lest some of the family may perchance want it, and exclaim in disgust, "How dare she?" A case in illustration, transpired in the writer's own neighborhood: Two cousins, Julia and Annie, daughters of substantial farmers in the Green Mountain State, enjoyed the same advantages in their respective homes. Julia, the oldest, married and located in the capital of New York, and soon had a family of little ones growing up around her. Fashionable cares engrossed so much of her time that small measure was left to devote to her children. In this emergency she prevailed on the gentle Annie to "accept food and shelter" in her city home, and assist in the care of the juveniles. Annie, however, only stayed a few months. On being interrogated after her return she replied that she had no social privileges whatever, that her isolation was more complete than that of Robinson Crusoe on his desolate island, as he could breathe the free air of heaven unmolested, and enjoy the companionship of his man Friday.

Is the above an exceptionable experience? Is it not rather the rule? Such being the fact, what wonder the country girl prefers the occupation of the copyist, the telegraph operator, the dry goods clerk, the shop hand, etc., as in all these various employments she has at least some social advantages, which human nature in all ages since Mother Eve has ever craved.

It is refreshing to note the confident anticipations of "Home Letter" in regard to the future of help, and the assertion that it rests with working women to reform the domestic problem in time to prevent the American home from becoming extinct. How weighty the responsibility. Very many, on the other hand, argue that the solution of the difficulty, (if it is ever solved), must be done as "Home Letter" tritely says, by employes making it for the interest of their help to keep good places, by simply practicing the Golden Rule, or, as Charles Reade has it, by "putting themselves in their places." Till then it is more than probable that City kitchens will continue to be tenanted by the latest arrival from Erin's Green Isle, fresh from the mud floors and squalid cabins of their native land.

COUNTRY GIRL.

Woman.

We think the article in the last number of the BLADE, entitled "Force of Character," must have been written by a maiden lady, as we do not see how it could be possible for any woman with a loving husband and happy home to desire that happiness broken, as it surely would be were she to neglect her family and do that which God never intended for her.

Woman's great attraction in the eyes of the sterner sex is her clinging dependence on the man, and when he ceases to feel that she is to be shielded and cared for as you would a tender plant, just so soon will all her happiness be gone for this world.

We admit that there are many men which are vastly inferior to some of our women. But are there not just as many women that are far behind some of our men? All things considered, is not this grand country of ours just as well, and perhaps a little better, as it is, than it would be under feminine rule? We hope the day may never come when the good and noble women of our land will be seen with their green cotton umbrellas under their arms, marching to the polls with the men, or filling any public position that will tend to make them masculine, and destroy all the influence for good they now have over mankind. PEARL.

We do not remember whether the writer of "Force of Character" had Mrs or Miss prefixed to her name, but it is certain if we had not seen that "Pearl" had entered into the ranks of married sisters, we should have supposed her a sentimental school girl with no knowledge of practical life, whose only idea of marriage was that it is a blissful state of loving and being loved, where roses blossom without thorns, an elysium where care cannot enter. We had thought that the old oak and ivy idea was pretty much exploded among sensible, thoughtful men and women, and we still believe it. Men may in the outset like to have a soft, purring, clinging nonentity, with pretty face and asking ways looking up to him as to a god, but by and by, when children come—when the hard struggle of life begins as it is almost sure to—when duties and responsibilities multiply—when he finds that his wife is absolutely incapable of giving him the assistance that he requires, the delight of being the protector of a meaningless, purposeless woman will become monotonous.

The writer of "Force of Character" did not mean we are sure, that women should cultivate masculine qualities, but that she should try to be brave, strong and true to herself, and in being that she would be the truer to all around her. Combining with these the sweet and womanly nature, for they are kith and kin, the heart of her husband could safely rest in her, and while exceeding love would make him shield her from pain and annoyance so far as possible, he would yet respect her as his equal in all things, and in this way only can marriage be what the Creator intended. We think "Pearl" could not have intended just what her words would lead us to understand.—ED. HOUSEHOLD.

Information Wanted.

I am a newcomer and perhaps an intruder, nevertheless, I beg an audience. I am as Josiah Allen's wife would say, a female, but unlike B. B., I do not think home is woman's only "speah." It positively needs a woman to make a home, but all women are not adapted to the purpose. Now I am just past nineteen, and have had to support myself for some time at that poor paying, life-taking, irksome employment, dressmaking, my only alternative, being, clerking or becoming a house servant, the former having too much publicity attached to it and the latter, an inevitable social degradation, not at all congenial to my nature. Since, as they say, there are so many different avenues of employment recently opened to women, I think the girls ought to come forward and take advantage of them. I am willing that "Marian" or any one of her sorrowing mates, should have the man who is waiting for me, if I can secure some modest remunerative employment that will, with judiciousness, render me independent and comfortable.

It impressed one as a capital idea suggested by the lady who wrote remarks on Mrs. Galpin's letter and signed herself "Interested," in the BLADE of Jan. 6th, that of dentistry, I would like to ask her, or any one who can answer me, a few questions in regard to the matter. First, how many years of study does it take to become thoroughly informed? Second, in this western country where colleges do not abound, where and how might one pursue her studies to the best advantage? Third, what would be the least possible expenses of such a course of study? Fourthly, what capital does it require to start in business?

I inquire specifically, as I am a long way from any one who could give me any information, in the heart of an uninhabited region, it seems to me, having lived all my life previous to coming here in the city. If some one will kindly answer my questions, they will confer a great favor, besides perhaps relieving some poor fellow of the task of maintaining a woman who will vote if she ever gets a chance.

And now, with a word to "C," of Clymer, N. J., I will close. He infers that because Eve was weak enough to surrender to the temptations of the devil that her daughters all must needs lack force of character. Now, sir, for a "sir" I take you to be, did you ever hear of such a thing as a son inheriting his mother's traits? If you havn't I have, and there are doubtless as many of Eve's sons in existence to-day who have her want of will as there are daughters, and for my part I cannot see wherein she was more deplorably weak than Adam, in that she succumbed to the entreaties of the Prince of the Powers of Darkness, while he yielded to the insipid voice of *a weak woman!* DIDOT.

Garo, Col.

We most earnestly hope that "Interested" will give what she is so manifestly able to do—the information above asked for—not only for the benefit of "Didot," but for others who are looking around them for something to do. "Didot's" letter shows that she is a wide awake, energetic girl who will succeed in whatever she undertakes. She is not content to fold her hands and wait for the "Prince," and he is all the more likely to come to her, but if he should not she will be happy. We wish her a hearty God speed.—ED. HOUSEHOLD.

A Voice from the Pacific Coast.

Farmer Evans, of Colorado, says he does not believe in the ultimate success of woman's suffrage because the Bible condemns it, and refers to the curse passed upon her, which says, "Thy desire shall be unto thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." We do not understand this sentence any better than much that is contained in Holy Writ. At the same time we are not convinced that it should be received in a literal sense. God is just and perfect in all His ways, never makes mistakes to repent of, allows punishment only for our good. But the Biblical God, 'tis said, made Adam and Eve good; then, when they knew not right from wrong, allowed them to be tempted. They knew nothing of sin or the consequences of disobedience, and yet Satan was put there to spoil what the Lord had supposed good, the Lord became angry, cursed and drove them out. In dogmatic creeds which had their origin, we know not how or when, we have little faith. We know the tendency of such religion has been injurious to women, regarding her as the mother of evil subject to the will of man and denied the privilege of protecting her own interests. The idea of man's superiority originated in an age marked for its ignorance, brutality, and vice, and now it is high time to do away with such evidences of barbarism, for really there is no law, human or divine, to compel one half of the human family to live in subjection to the other. Upon every progressive movement every new departure from old opinions, dogmatic creed comes down like a wet blanket to dampen and repress rational minds, and be a regular stumbling block in the onward march of improvement. This "know it all creed" takes no stock in reason, "God's best gift to man."

Coming back to the subject of Woman's Rights, let us say the question is based upon justice and not upon the use she will make of it. Suppose a man's right to vote depended upon the same principle! What a storm it would raise at once. There will be two petitions before the present Legislature of California; one to allow women to vote for and hold educational office; the other to make husband and wife equal in common property. It is an abomination that a widow must go through a long and expensive rigmarole of law in order to gain what is already her own.

Farmer Evans mentions the curse upon Adam—"cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life, thorns and thistles shall spring up and thou shalt eat the herb of the field." We have tilled the soil 33 years, and admit the ground has blessed us abundantly. Trees loaded down with delicious fruit, vineyards full of luscious grapes, fields of grain that reach further than the eye can see, no thorns, no thistles; neither do we eat of herbs, and for all of these blessings we thank Thee, our perfect and just God.

I agree with J. S. Sargent that evil is the absence of good. How can we learn to do right unless we have evil to come? God permits evil that good may come. In proportion as we learn to do right evil disappears. Some believe that all good is from God and evil from Satan. If that be so God is instrumental in bringing men Satan is instrumental in bringing us to righteousness. A personal god and a personal devil are growing less every year.

O bigotry! We read thy tale
Of every age and time and nation;
What loads the earth with hell hath not cursed
Priests and cruel persecution.

L. L. P.

Butte County, Cal.

Theory and Fact.

It gives me pleasure to think what an impetus the subject of education has been given of late, and with what zeal and enthusiasm those actively engaged in the work of teaching express their thoughts for the readers of the "BLADE."

The work of raising the educational standard of the masses of this country, devolves in a great degree upon the ability and enterprise of the District School Teachers. Then how well they should be informed, that they may be able to perform with intelligence the important and responsible task that they undertake.

There is nothing so dangerous, aye, absolutely wicked as to experiment with a young and impressible mind. It is even dangerous when the experiment is to be conducted by an experienced person, who has well weighed the probabilities of a good result. But what can you call it, when a youth, boy or girl, barely out of short dresses, who has acquired a most meager knowledge of only those branches which it is necessary to have a knowledge of in order to procure a license, whose powers of judgment and discrimination have never been exercised and are far from being matured, and whose experience figures as naught, what can you call it when such an individual enters a schools and presumes to teach? No words in the English language can express the utter contempt and scorn with which intelligent people ought to treat such a proceeding. Yet, how often does this same thing occur in the rural portions of our country? Does it tend to improve the social condition of the people or to ennoble their minds? On the contrary it produces a retrograde tendency, whose evil effect is but little more than neutralized by the most strenuous exertions of the competent workers. Still, it is neutralized, and in that degree that enables us to perceive our Nation is making some progress. We are not progressing fast enough. We can increase the speed of our progress by abolishing the means that permit inferior teachers to come upon the field of labor.

If applicants for certificates were required to possess a knowledge of elementary natural philosophy and geometry, of botany, zoology and history, besides the common branches, one important point would be gained. Not that they should possess a knowledge of these branches to teach them—they are rarely taught in the district school—but it would enable them to talk more intelligently and answer questions more clearly; and withal, they could conduct their schools in a more enlightened manner. People will awaken ere a great while to the fact that to succeed in this world they must have are average education; and that to obtain such they cannot totally ignore the means that lead to it. I read with interest a letter from "Linden" and hope we may hear from him again ere long. He speaks of an article on "Sluggish Pupils." Will he please give information through the BLADE as to where we can obtain it? Hoping that we may hear from others on this subject, I will close.

ADAM EARL.

Expressions of Opinion.

"Oregonian Rosleaves" writes in regard to country schools:

"I am now engaged in teaching a country school. Some of the patrons send their children here, with perhaps, one book, and that of an old series long out of use. I wrote a note to them telling them that according to law I had no right to teach from them. They grumbled, but finally bought one and said they could not afford to buy more. Another came without any books whatever. I asked where her books were? She answered: "Ma said you would give me some." Now I want to ask "Mary Mead" candidly, can I make my pupils progress as rapidly as one who has a full school suitable accommodations, and parents who are interested in their children's welfare? I agree with her in regard to having singing in the school room. I have taught in Districts where the children were well equipped with books, and above all, with nice clean faces, hair well combed and bright eyes, ready for anything I might propose. Such scholars are a real source of pleasure to me. I do not believe in capital punishment, and never have had an occasion to use the rod.

"Hopeful," Voorhies Station, Ill., says:

"Interested," I did not get from your letter that a lady should ask a man to marry her, as did "Mrs. M. J. Galpin," but there are ways by which a girl can let a gentleman know that she does not intend to spend four or five years with him without an understanding.

I, too, know a lady who had the attention of a gentleman for four years, and when she thought she was sure they would marry he left her and married another younger girl. I say from the depth of my heart this is not right.

I heartily agree with the Editor in regard to girls who do general housework for a living. There are people in this neighborhood who have seven and eight girls, and they are so poor that they cannot give them respectable clothes, and yet these parents say they would sooner follow them to the grave than have them work out."

"Odin," Manistique, Mich., says:

"The man who chops wood for an iron furnace is of more good to the community and society at large, than a legion of Susan B. Anthony's followers.

When work is the most important part of society, then it becomes a right as a matter of course, that the workers should have the voice in governing the same. It is the chief principle of self government."

"Odin's" argument against Woman's Suffrage is so unique that we give it in part in spite of its foolishness. It is in fact an earnest argument in its favor, for it would be only an idiot or one wilfully blind who would say that women do not do their part of the world's work.—ED. HOUSEHOLD.

"Kansas Zephyr," says among other things:

"For 20 years I have opposed Female Suffrage on the ground that it would bring women down from the high plane of life, unquestionably ascribed to her by all good men, to a level with man and thereby destroy, to a great extent, that sweet, subtile influence which she now exerts over man, to raise him up. It appears to me to be simply a question of strength. When two opposing forces meet in conflict one must give way or both are shattered. The strongest must win. The influence of a good woman, as society is now constituted is far greater than that of any man. Would it be so when she is brought down to an equality with men? It seems to me that women frequently mistake the position they occupy in the world. A good woman is above everything. To vote is to descend. Politics are degrading. Will women purify it by voting? It is a matter of strength. The power of woman is great, I concede, but I tremble at the result where the battle is fought out in that way."

"G.," Garnett, Kans., writes a defense of Kansas, but as nearly the same points have been given before, we will quote but one sentence:

"The country must remember, that when a State gives as large a Republican majority for President, that there is at least some good points about it."

"J. H. Tomb," from the same State, says:

"When a man works well here he need have no fears of failure."

"P. P. P.," of McGraw, Pa., writes of the controversy over "Marion" and a "home:"

"Webster defines home as 'house in which we live; residence,' so "J. Mcm." your assertion that a man or woman may have the President's mansion to live in and if they have no companion they have no home," is not true or else Webster is wrong. I think that what leads to a great deal of needless controversy is that the contending parties do not express themselves clearly, or, as in the above referred to, they differ in regard to the meaning of words."

"Tursey Ann," Vincent, Kan., expresses herself in regard to dancing in the following *refreshing* manner:

"This morning I picked up the BLADE, and as I always look for THE HOUSEHOLD first, I read "Brunette's" opinions among others. I have to disagree with her in one thing. She says, "I delight in dancing, and I can not see any harm in a nice social dance." Now "Brunette" you might just as well talk about a nice devil (if you will allow the expression) as a nice dance. You may think I am an old fogy, I am not. I was just 22 last month. I like fun as well as any body."

"Scotch Heather," Indiana, writes in regard to the "pot and skillet" question:

"I have been keeping house going on two years. I do all my own work and sewing and find time to read all the papers and books that I get. I saw some of the sisters condemning the scouring of pots and skillets on the outside. I scour mine on both sides, yet have time to read, and have sense enough to appreciate a good paper or book when I read it. I enjoy having company as well as those that do not scour their pots and skillets. I have very poor health and have had for about five years, yet I try and keep my home neat and clean and make it cheerful so my husband will enjoy it. My husband makes his living like hundreds of others; he works for the railroad company, and he thinks, though be it ever so humble, there is no place like home."

"Kitty Leon," Dakota Territory, writes to "Kansas," who doubted the existence of good will and sympathy in mankind:

"That there are many cases of seeming hopelessness in this respect all must admit. But we must ever keep in mind that there is good in every heart, and though it be deeply buried by faults and crusted over with surliness, great richness and beauty are there, which will repay us many fold for all efforts used in alluring it to the surface. We must go at it with a determined purpose and well laid plans, as the miner does to bring forth gems from the earth.

* * *

If there is one condition beautiful, blissful and blessed above others on earth, it is man and wife mutually, energetically, patiently, intelligently and conscientiously striving to be, and help each other and their children to be, what men and women should be."

Inquiries.

Will some one give me a recipe for oyster pie?—PLEASANT RIDERHOOD.

I wish to inquire through THE HOUSEHOLD of some one who has had experience in picking geese, how often should they be picked, and do they pick them in the Winter time? Some of our neighbors do, but I think it is a barbarous plan.—N. G. K., Edgewood, Ill.

Will any one give instructions how to make a hair switch that will be durable, and some patterns in knitting and crochet work, such as a hood, warm and neat, a sock or overshoe for a baby, things useful for children that will come within the reach of small means, also the meaning of terms used in crotchet work?—C. A. T.

Does any one of the many readers of the BLADE know the song entitled "James Bird." I have heard a part of it sung and would like to get the song very much; would be much obliged if some one would send it to me. James Bird (in the song) fought with Commander Perry on Lake Erie and was shot for staying one day too long at home. The first verse is:

Sons of freedom listen to me,
And ye daughters too give ear;
You a sad and mournful story
As was ever told shall hear.

—LEVI E. FRANKFORTHER, Glasco, Cloud Co., Kansas.

Can any one tell me what will remove a mole from my face without leaving a scar? It is a small red mole, and being on my upper lip, shows more plainly, I think, than if on any other part of my face.—MIRA.

I wish to know the name of "Moss Back," Elmira P. O., Otsego County, Mich. He has an article in THE HOUSEHOLD Department concerning lands there. I wish to correspond with him.—C. S. GLEASON, Clymer, N. Y.

If this article should chance to meet the eye of any person who has been permanently cured of dyspepsia, and they will make the remedy known, they will confer a lasting favor upon at least one member of THE HOUSEHOLD. Now, don't say be temperate in eating and drinking, for the afflicted one is temperate in all things.—AN OLD CONTRIBUTOR.

Answers to Inquiries.

To those having chapped hands I would say there can be nothing better than glycerine and arnica, equal parts. Apply, and when partly dry rub with buckwheat flour.—AN OLD CONTRIBUTOR.

ECONOMY.—For each pound of goods, take camwood 7 oz., and boil ½ hour; put in the goods and boil 1 hour; then add blue vitriol, 3 oz, and boil ½ hour; if not dark enough, add more vitriol and boil again.

Some one inquired how to take care of gold finch, and as it was not answered I will tell the way my sister does: Change water three times a week, feed them on crackers, crumbs and angl worms. She keeps shells, rocks and vines in with them and it does not injure them.—SUNSHINE.

Yes "Carrie," the measles is the cause of your misfortune. Do not feel worried. It will be all right. I knew such a case, and the person used cold tea, and had a good head of hair afterwards. It will make it darker too.—A READER.

Recipes.

FOR SORE THROAT AND PAINS.

Did THE HOUSEHOLD ever try bathing the outside of the throat for soreness inside, with kerosine. It is an excellent. I might almost say a miraculous cure, for common sore throat. For sharp pains about the body, I have known the application of hops steeped in vinegar and put into a flannel bag and applied, to do almost wonders. Apply hot as can be borne, and have it as moist as possible and not drip.—HURRIE SEURRIE.

WEAK AND SORE EYES.

Thousands suffer with weak and sore eyes, caused by scrofula, and other diseases of the blood, who might be benefited by a proper use of saxifrage. The Electric Medical Journal of Philadelphia, says: "It has a special action on the eye. Saxifrage is its therapeutic action on the organ that if persevered with for some months it will absorb all forms of cataract, every variety of opacity of the cornea, iritis, opthalmia and other diseases of the eye," and that "it is worthy of the most rigid experiments in that class of diseases incidental to the eyes." To be taken internally.—I. H. DUFF, Murray, Ind.

CUSTARD CAKE.

Four eggs, 1½ cups of sugar, 1½ teaspoonfuls of cream tartar, ¾ teaspoonful of soda; to be baked in 3 cakes. The custard ½ pint of milk, ½ cup of sugar, ½ cup of flour, 2 eggs put together and stirred until it boils, then flavor with lemon.—MARY JACOBS ANGELICA.

Our Young Folks.

BILLY'S ALL.

Lily gave a party,
And her little playmates all,
Gayly dressed, came in their best
To dance at Lily's ball.

Lily Quaker Primrose
Sat and never stirred,
And except in whispers,
Never spoke a word.

Tulip fine and Dahlia
Shone in silk and satin;
Learned old Convolvulus
Was tiresome with his Latin.

Snowdrop nearly fainted
Because the room was hot,
And went away before the rest
With sweet Forget-me-not.

Pansy danced with Daffodil,
Rose with Violet;
Silly Daisy fell in love
With pretty Mignonette.

But when they danced the country dance,
One could scarcely tell
Which of these two danced it best—
Cowslip or Heather-bell.

Between the dances, when they all
Were seated in their places,
I thought I'd never seen before
So many pretty faces.

But of all the pretty maidens
I saw at Lily's ball,
Darling Lily was to me
The sweetest of them all.

And when the dance was over,
They went down stairs to sup,
And each had a taste of honey-cake,
With dew in a buttercup.

And all were dressed to go away
Before the set of sun;
And Lily said "God by!" and gave
A kiss to every one.

And before the moon or a single star
Was shining overhead,
Lily and all her little friends
Were fast asleep in bed.

—*Harper's Young People.*

Barbara's Ride.

BY ELIZA GILBERT HURD.

Thirty years ago, when the settlements of Illinois were long distances apart, and of the present network of railroads there was scarcely a foundation thread, traveling was fatiguing, and in many respects, unsafe. The highways were imperfect. The bridges were but temporary shells, that almost every freshet lifted, or swept away.

Sloughs over which fair flowers and tall grass bloomed and waved, were bottomless and fatal to the unfortunate animal or traveler who unwittingly walked into them. It was no unusual sight to see human bones, parts of animals and pieces of vehicles, ooze up from their horrible slimy depths. Who could know the tragic history of these remains?

Perhaps these bits of suggested life appeared side by side with the delicate blue gentian, and the pale yellow sensitive-plant, or the heavy plumes of the golden-rod; a strange anomaly!

The ruffian awaited in some unfrequented spot the lonely traveler or venturesome peddler, and committed his deed of robbery, perhaps of murder, without fear of molestation. The whispering trees never told the story of the dark deed, and the singing stream carried the cry for help only as a song on its bosom.

For many years the farmers of Central Illinois clubbed together and carried their produce to Chicago, and exchanged it for groceries and other necessaries, the trip occupying from two to four weeks. When later, Peoria was settled and made a nearer market the forty or fifty miles seemed but a short distance, and farmers were jubilant over their better prospects.

Barbara Thorton lived near a small town about 50 miles from Peoria. Her parents moved West when she was only one year old, and although her age was 18 at the time of our story, she could not be termed a brave girl.

There was something in the newness and wildness of the West that kept her in constant terror. The stories of prowling Indians made her start at sight of a single horseman, and hide at the appearance of a dusky figure.

Prairie fires that frequently encircled her home, shutting it in with a blazing wall, scorching the fences and threatening the buildings with their fiery tongues, had no grandeur to her, until long years after, they remained a picture in her memory; a picture of a golden chain creeping and belting the horizon like a thing of life; creeping nearer, leaping higher, flying swifter than the swiftest horse; roaring, cracking, hissing, until madly meeting another line of flame it flashed like a meteor high in the heavens, and was soon followed by blackness and darkness.

The dismal howl of the detestable wolf—a cry so hollow, so ghastly, so hungry, there is no describing it—meant death and torture to Barbara, and she connected the prowling brutes with every path in the forest, every cave in the hills.

The sweet wild flowers suggested rattlesnakes. She never dared to pick a blossom without first feeling around with a stick for the cold, ugly coils of her enemy, or listening in terror for its unwelcome rattle.

The brown nuts and wild fruits—of which there was a great abundance, and a corresponding need—were associated with these hidden terrors. Even the blue sky and lovely sunsets, unequalled anywhere, were watched with fear of approaching hurricane or appaling thunder storm; for the tempests sometimes swept the prairies like mocking fiends, laughing at human efforts to raise anything in their path, laying low the strongest houses and leveling orchard and forest.

Barbara's parents retained their love for their old New England home, and had journeyed thither and made themselves young again wandering over the familiar haunts of their early days. When they returned they promised Barbara that she should visit the scenes so dear to them.

The spring of 1852 was the time set for her visit East. The day of starting arrived, and with her mind full of delightful anticipation, Barbara stepped into the stage, one bright morning, that was to convey her to Peoria. There she had arranged to meet friends, who were to accompany her by river to La Salle, by canal to Chicago, and thence by rail upon her Eastern journey.

There had been heavy rains, and Barbara's parents felt apprehensive of danger on the roads to Peoria, though the stage-driver assured them they were in good condition the day before.

"The water was high in Spoon River, but the bridge was safe," he said.

Mrs. Thornton inferred from his looks and manner that the driver had been drinking, and said so to her husband; but he quieted her fears by saying: "He is only putting on airs; all drivers do."

To the envy of the small boys on the village green, this monarch of the highway climbed to his seat, swaying about, drew his reins, threw his long whip with a flourish and a crack about the leader's ears, and started off in fine style.

Mrs. Thornton went into the house and tried to busy her thoughts about her household cares, but they would follow her daughter.

Barbara had no fears. Her sensations were all new and novel. She had never been in the stage before, and being the only passenger, she felt like a lady of state rolling along in the great vehicle.

She watched the blue sky dip down to the earth and the light fleecy clouds arrange and rearrange themselves in never-ending shapes. She counted the different varieties of wild flowers, and marked the flight of birds and flocks of startled prairie-chickens; the hiding of the timid quail in the tall grass and the graceful bound of the trembling deer. So absorbed and delighted was she that she hardly noted the passage of miles, until a farmer in a lumber wagon stopped abreast the stage, and called out, "I say, driver, it isn't safe to cross the Spoon this morning. I've been down there, and the water's over the banks on both sides."

"The bridge's all right, isn't it?" asked the driver in a thick voice, that startled Barbara, she scarcely knew why.

"Yes, it's there; but the water is booming all round it, and seems to be still rising."

"Well, we'll take a look at it," said the driver, starting on.

"My house is about a mile back. You can come there and stop. The water will likely go down in a few hours," continued the farmer, pleasantly.

Barbara leaned out of the coach window, and could plainly hear the rush of the torrent, and see it in the distance spread out like a lake. As they approached the river, she called out,—

"Driver, stop! please do!"

The horses were already in a foot deep in water.

"It's all right. It isn't deep, as you see," he replied, without stopping.

"Oh, I'm sure it isn't safe!" cried Barbara, with clasped hands. "The bridge, the bridge! It is swaying!"

"Nothing but the stage is swaying!" growled the driver in the same thick voice.

When the leaders touched the bridge, they stopped.

"Oh, don't, don't, driver! Driver," screamed Barbara, clutching at the door, "let me out! Stop!"

The driver did not or would not hear. The water was rushing over the floor of the bridge, and floating logs were battering against the side of the structure, causing it to tremble like a thing of life.

The driver muttering his determination to go on, gave the horses several heavy blows with his whip. They sprang forward upon the bridge, and at a rapid pace, splashed through the water that covered it.

Barbara shuddered with terror, and could only gasp for breath as the bridge rose and fell under the moving vehicle as a boat in the trough of the sea. Just as the hind wheels touched land, the timbers of the bridge snapped with a loud report, and in a minute every board and beam seemed to separate, and were swept away in the rushing waters.

Barbara turned her white, terror-stricken face from the mad stream behind, to meet a dull gaze from the driver that almost paralyzed her. With a silly, sickening smile, as though answering her questioning look, he said—

"We made it,—hic—didn't we?—hic—we're all right now,—hic."

Then Barbara knew that he was drunk. In the hope that she might guide the horses, she begged that he would allow her to get upon the seat with him.

"Oh no!—hic—my pretty miss—I'd like to have you, of course. Who—hic—wouldn't like a pretty girl by his side? But you see you—hic—you can't get here for the—the water. When we get through, you—hic—shall come up,—yes,—so you shall—yes!"

Barbara felt his hot breath touch her cheek as he leaned towards her, and unobserved by him, a bottle fell from his pocket into the water. On they went, splashing and plowing through the water up to the hubs of the wheels, for nearly a quarter of a mile across the bottom.

Barbara had been over this part of the road with her father, and knew that before reaching the bluffs there was an arm of the Spoon River, not wide, but deep, bridged imperfectly with logs and brush. Usually there was no water in it. Approaching it, she saw another raging torrent. The poor girl wrung her hands, and screamed at the driver, and tried to make him listen to her.

His only answer was a vigorous crack of his whip. Then the stage went down, down! Barbara knew the horses were swimming. The stage swayed and nearly turned over. She thought of many, many things in that moment of time. She cried, "Oh, I shall drown! Must I die?" Then the waater swept in at the windows and covered her.

She swooned, and remembered nothing more. When she came to herself, all was still save the sound of water. Her clothes and hair were dripping, and she shivered with cold.

She looked out of the coach. Still water was all about, but it was not deep. She called to the driver.

No answer,

She looked out the opposite side of the coach. The reins lay in the water, and the horses were prevented from making further progress by a fallen tree. Her clothes were wet through. She leaped from the stage. The driver was nowhere to be seen. It seemed to her as she glanced back upon the flood that for an instant, in the midst of a mass of floating debris, saw that silly, smiling face. Then it was gone. The man was never found. He had been swept from his seat, and probably immediately drowned.

Barbara went to the horses. They were quiet; and evidently almost worn out by their fright and struggles. She examined the ground as well as she could, and found it would be save to drive around the tree. Then she unhitched the leaders and tied them back of the stage. She could drive two horses, but thought that four would be beyond her skill. Then she mounted the box and started.

It was three miles to the first house, and although it was mid-day, and the sun sh

The Sunday School.

Christ Healing the Sick.

LESSON 9, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1881.

GOLDEN TEXT.—The power of the Lord was present to heal them.—Luke 5; 17.

LESSON TEXT.

Luke 5: 12-26.

12. And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy, who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 13. And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him. 14. And he charged him to tell no man; but go and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them. 15. But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. 16. And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed. 17. And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them. 18. And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy, and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him. 19. And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the house-top, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus. 20. And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, man, thy sins are forgiven thee. 21. And the Scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone? 22. But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? 23. Whether is it easier to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee, or to say, Rise up and walk? 24. But, that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch and go into thine house. 24. And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. 26. And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to-day.

ILLUSTRATIVE APPLICATIONS.

It came to pass (v. 12.)—This has been written of many promises and prophecies, and will be written against the last promise and the last warning. A certain city. Some of the 204 cities and villages of Galilee; unknown, perhaps, that we may apply it. The "certain" things of Scripture are interesting, whether cities, persons, or events. A man full of leprosy. This was a case of sin overthrow. The disease had worked within and without. It was the well-known symbol of sin, and illustrates the experience of those who go to Jesus. Many stay away, because they regard the case lightly, but when, like this leper, they come regard the case too bad for any but Jesus, like him they fall down and beseech the Lord for healing. He said: "If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean," admitting the power, doubting only the love; and this view is obtained only from the conviction of self-abasement and sin.

And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean (v. 13.)—This is the compassion of love. He touched him. Why should he? The word "be clean" was sufficient for the healing; why then the touch? What an illustration of divinity! 1. That he could touch pollution and be undefiled. Here in the midst of sinners, and in contact with sin, yet remaining spotless. The water of life is not fouled by the corruption of those who come to drink. 2. This was divine sympathy. We can almost hear his leper say, "Lord, I am unclean, vile, sinful, and separated; no one can even touch me, for fear of pollution; oh heal me!" We can almost feel the thrill as the healing tide responded to the word of Jesus, and the new love, like an electric current, came at his touch. In all Christian work, the loving hand should accompany the loving word. John B. Gough says of the man who was permitted to reach him: "After 20 years, I can feel the power and love of the hand that was laid upon my shoulder that night." And the world has felt the touch, just as the multitudes who came to be healed felt the word and touch Jesus gave to the leper.

He withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed (v. 16.)—He who was always giving was always receiving. The channels to the upper fountain were always kept open, and there was therefore no lack when others would draw from him. Does this suggest the reason of our weakness and want of success? He who would be the channel of blessing to others must be much in communion with God.

The power of the Lord was present to heal them (v. 17.)—To heal whom? Why, all the Pharisees and doctors of the law, from every part of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. What a gathering! What an opportunity! Were they healed? Not at all; and for the best of reasons—they did come to be healed. They were there, Jesus was there, and the power of God was there, and there to heal them, but they came not to be healed, but to criticise, to find fault, and to condemn; and this unbelief built a wall between them and the Lord, but one was healed. Behold him!

A man . . . taken with palsy (v. 18.)—He was in a bed, borne of four. It is a vivid picture—the healer, the helpless, the helpers the hinderers. Moody says: "I think these four men must have been young converts, they had so much zeal; nothing could stop them; through the crowd, up the steps, and through the tiling before him." Pharisees and doctors might watch and wonder, they would have the man healed, and healed he was. What confusion and blessing would follow such determined faith and earnestness in some churches and schools to-day!

He saw their faith (v. 20.)—They had faith and he saw it. He always sees it, wherever it exists, for it pleases him. And when he saw it he forgave him. Doubtless the man had faith, but this is specially recorded to increase faith in those who work for others. It seems evident that this sickness was the result of sin, and certain it is that forgiveness must go with healing, if there is to be a permanent cure. This is God's order (Psa. 103,) and the divine Physician knows the case too well to heal the surface and leave the sore. Many diseases would disappear from persons, homes, and churches, if their sins were forgiven.

Who can forgive sins but God alone? (v. 21.)—A great question. Who can forgive? If God alone, then to him we must go for forgiveness. And how plain the test. Easier by far to say, "Thy sins are forgiven," than to say, "Rise up and walk;" because the first could not certainly be known, but the last must. Therefore, the miracle was proof of the forgiveness, and of the divinity of Him who forgave, and healed, to prove his power and right to forgive. If healing is now a proof of forgiveness, what carefulness is needed that we may bear an uncontradicted testimony to his power and love. Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Important question. Some one did; was it Jesus? Unless he was the Son of God, all he claimed, he must have done so. If he did not, then those who deny him, and speak against him, are blasphemers. The question is asked, and each one must answer it.

Immediately he rose up before them (v. 25.)—It was a sudden conversion. Healed with a word. One hour vile and helpless, the next healed and forgiven. Carried in on a bed and walking out with his bed. Even his mattress, or quilt, was an evidence of his cure; he carried that whereon he had lain. So we may bear, rather than be borne; that which has witnessed to our sin and sickness may testify of our forgiveness and healing.

They were all amazed, and they glorified God (v. 26.)—That is the multitude. No doubt the Pharisees and doctors were all amazed, and "filled with fear," and said, "We have seen strange things to-day." Thus far they could come, but, Pharisee like, they reasoned with themselves, and grew no wiser. Amazement and fear do not lead one to glorify God, but faith and love do. "We have seen strange things to day." The multitudes gathered, the Lord at prayer, with power to heal them all, and only a leper healed. The whole lesson is a picture. The leper and the palsied—on either side one—and Jesus, with the disciples, in the midst, while the dark background shows the Pharisees and doctors, clouded by doubt and palsied with unbelief and fear. We have seen strange things to-day. And these strange things are seen every day; palsied men and lepers come to Jesus, while the wise and great of the world reject the power and the love.—*B. F. Jacobs, in S. S. Times.*

Sled Brakes.

Boston Post.

A South End boy invented a brake that would instantly stop his sled. The brake was a success, but the boy didn't invent a brake to stop himself when the sled stopped, and the first time he applied the sled brake, while flying down hill at the rate of a mile a minute, he kept on going some time after the sled stopped, and got his mouth and ears full of snow, and lost some skin from 18 or 20 spots. He will give the brake to the boy he hates.

DEMOCRATIC ECONOMY ILLUSTRATED.

The House Committee on Commerce Recommends the Appropriation of More Than $10,000,000 for River and Harbor Purposes—Improvements of no Practical Benefit.

Special Dispatch to the New York Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The River and Harbor bill, it is expected, will pass the House or Representatives to-morrow under the gag rule which forbids any amendment or discussion. This is by all odds the most shameful of the "log-rolling" jobs which, under the same name, pass Congress year after year. The total appropriation recommended by the House Committee on Commerce this year is $10,189,000, or $2,-685,000 in excess of the estimates of the Secretary of War. Last year the appropriations in the same bill were $3,-961,000 in excess of the estimates, which were $5,015,000. The appropriations for 1880 were about $8,000,000 in excess of the estimates, and, including $1,730,891 for the jetties at the mouth of the Mississippi, amounting to $9,752,494. These figures show that a Democratic Congress devoted to "economy" and eager to cut down the wages of Government clerks and messengers a paltry $10 or $12 a month, continues year after year to pile millions of dollars upon the estimates for river and harbor "improvements," and then vote away the tremendous aggregate without allowing an amendment or a word of discussion. On at least one occasion several Representatives who desired to record their votes in the negative were not permitted to do so, and the bill went through with a "hurrah" on a viva voce vote.

Of the money thus to be voted out of the Treasury to-morrow, hundreds of thousands, probably millions, of dollars will be squandered on alleged improvements of so-called creeks and rivers, which no amount of "improvement" would make navigable even for "pole" boats. In some streams in the South more money is expended in a year for such "improvements" than would pay for every pound of freight that would be transported if the streams could be made navigable. Several years ago an officer of engineers reported that the improvement of one of these streams in South Carolina, to make it navigable for "pole" boats, would cost as much as it would to build and equip a railroad along the bank of the stream. The improvement of one of the streams in Virginia for which appropriations are annually made will, it is said, cost from $25,000 to $40,000 a mile, and when the work is completed the stream will float nothing larger than a flat boat.

A comparison of the appropriations for the improvement of rivers and harbors made in three years by a Republican Congress, with appropriations for a like period by a Democratic Congress, throws considerable light upon the "true inwardness" of Democratic "economy," so called. For the year 1870, when both branches of Congress were Republican, the river and harbor appropriations amounted to exactly $2,000,000, although no appropriations for these purposes had been made for the preceding year. For the year 1871 the amount appropriated was $2,945,000; and for the year 1872 it was $4,467,500. The aggregate appropriations for the three years amounted to $10,353,000. The appropriations for rivers and harbors for the year 1879 amounted to $8,322,700; for 1880 to $9,752,494; and for 1881 to $8,976,500, making a total for three years of $27,-051,694, or nearly three times as much as a Republican Congress appropriated in a like period. The amount recommended by the Commerce Committee, and it is more likely to be increased than diminished by the Senate, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1882, is only $162,600 less than the aggregate appropriated by a Republican Congress for the three years ended June 20, 1772. So much for Democratic "economy."

IN A QUANDARY.

A Race Problem that Separate Schools Cannot Solve.

FORT WORTH, Tex., Feb. 8.—This city a rather novel and sensational school squabble on hand. The cause of the trouble is two little natives of South America,—probably the only ones in Texas. They are brother and sister, aged 12 and 10 years respectively. Their complexion is nearly that of a new saddle, but their features are of the Castilian cut. Their eyes are round, snappy, and sparkling and deep jet in color. Their hair is heavy and grows long, without a curl or kink, but as straight as an arrow, and is a rich glossy black. They have been regarded as curiosities as rare as Arabs would be. They are possessed of the average amount of intelligence and speak English as well as white children of their age.

They and their mother were brought to Fort Worth from the interior of Peru in the Spring of 1874 by A. B. Frazier, now Postmaster at Mary's Creek, Tarrant County. In 1875 their mother died, and the boy was adopted by Gen. Peers, proprietor of Peers's Hotel, and the girl by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Abbott. The Peers and Abbott families have become most strongly attached to their little wards of the tropics, and the feeling seems to be reciprocated. Their adopted parents concluded to give them a good education, and on Monday last sent them to attend the white public free school.—Fort Worth having separate free schools for the white and black races. The teachers observed a commotional whispering among the scholars, but thought it attributable to natural curiosity. But on Tuesday morning, on the reappearance of the sallow-skinned, sharp-eyed, swarty-haired pupils, nearly all the white scholars picked up books, slates, etc., and left the school, saying they were acting in accordance with instructions from their parents. The Principal reported to Mayor Brown, President of the School Board, for advice, and that official is in a quandary. The little South Americans cannot be denied free school benefits. It will not do to break up free white schools on account of the prejudice, and they cannot be compelled to accept instruction at the black schools, as they are not negros. Their guardians are determined to educate them, but do not feel that they can afford to secure private instructors for them, and the Mayor don't know what to do to avoid trouble.

At present the two little children of the tropics are taking a vacation for policy's sake and to allow time for a compromise if possible. Things look squally for the schools next week. The Mayor is taking legal counsel in the matter.

Birds on a Bender.

The Kingston (N. Y.) *Freeman* tells a curious story of an ornithological jamboree which took place there a day or two ago. A local entomologist having on his hands several bottles of insects preserved in spirits for which he had no further use emptied them upon the ash heap in his back yard. No sooner had he emptied the bugs than the sparrows lit all over the heap in a perfect cloud, swallowed the bugs and in about 10 minutes were drunk—drunk as men get—and cut up the same idiotic capers. They fought in free fights of half a dozen, a dozen and in fifties, and suddenly half of one party would break off from their fight and dash into some of the other fracases. Almost all the nests were pulled down and the whole colony was in a state of anarchy and the direst confusion. The whole drunk was over in half an hour, but that short time served to allow the cats to slaughter over 50 of the sparrows, whose combative qualities and forgetfulness had brought them too near to the ground. Not a sparrow has been seen in that neighborhood since.

A Needed Official.

New York Commercial Advertiser.

It is admitted that lawyers' fees are, in the majority of cases, oppressive and exorbitant. The Supreme Court of Scotland appoints an auditor, whose duty it is to tax every lawyer's account, and the manner in which that man in authority chops off six and eight-pences would make a Philadelphia lawyer weep. Such an auditor, with unlimited powers, subject to the supervision of the higher court, would be valuable man in New York.

A HISTORIC PAGE.

About $25,000 Worth of Discussion on a Claim of $136.85.

Debate in the House of Representatives on the Case of Capt. Page—He Fought on Lake Erie, but Abandoned His Country in 1861—Mr. Bragg, of the Iron Brigade, Tells the Confederates $25,000 Worth of Truth—Grand Closing of the Debate by the Repudiators and Lyre-Strikers of the Sunny South.

Special Dispatch Chicago Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—One hundred and thirty six dollars and eighty-five cents, that was the text upon which an all-day's debate upon Rebel claims was had in the House to-day. Before the debate had ended the Democrats had made public and private admissions which showed that the claim, on account of the small sum involved, and because of the sentimentality which surrounded it, had been selected in order that it might be used, if passed, as a precedent for the payment of a large class of similar claims in which the same conditions might not exist. One Democrat, also, in his haste plainly intimated that if the Republicans were disposed not to pay such claims as this it was an act of repudiation, and the North would do well to see to it that hereafter other obligations of the United States were not repudiated.

THIS LATTER THREAT

was not made in these exact words, but it was, however, broadly intimated in words which could leave little doubt as to the speaker's meaning. There were many circumstances which give the claim which furnished the text for this debate an appearance of justice. Mrs. Elizabeth Page is the widow of Hugh M. Page, who, with a good deal of historical flourish, was constantly described to day as "the hero of the battle of Lake Erie." Capt. Page was a midshipman under Commodore Perry at the time of the battle of Lake Erie, in 1813, and, in 1816, he had become a Captain in the Navy. He was a Virginian, and, when the State seceded,

MADE HASTE TO TENDER HIS RESIGNATION

in the Federal Navy. At the time of his resignation there was due him, on account of salary and allowance, the small balance of $136.85. His widow, through the bill presented in the House to-day, seemed to ask that the sum be paid, although, from subsequent developments, it would appear that the widow herself made no such request, and does not need the money, but the ex-Confederate politicians ask it in her name. The majority of the Naval Committee favorably reported the bill.

THE MEASURE HAD TWO ELEMENTS TO COMMEND ITSELF

to the Republicans. Capt. Page was admitted to have been a very brave officer in one of our historical navel battles; the sum asked was insignificant and there was no doubt that it was a balance due at the time of his resignation in 1861. It did not appear that he took an active part in the Rebellion, although it was known that he resigned his commission on account of his sympathy with the South, and that he aided and abetted the Rebellion. But the Republicans (and one Democrat) were not to be misled into establishing a dangerous precedent, by what Gen. Bragg subsequently called "Glittering generalities, supported by poetry." The bill was

PLAINLY IN VIOLATION

of Section 318 of the Revised Statutes, which forbids the payment of any anti-War claim which was due to any person who promoted or encouraged the Rebellion. This statute, with the Fourteenth Amendment, is one of the barriers between the Treasury and the countless millions of Rebel claims. The Republicans made their stand upon it, and were not to be turned aside by gush, glitter, melodrama, by loud appeals for justice by eloquent sketches of the struggle for Magna Charta, by declamations as to the fate of Emmett, or by threats of the possible repudiation by some future ex-Confederate Administration of the Federal debt incurred in suppressing the rebellion.

THE DISGUISES OF RHETORIC

and the tricks of pathos were soon stript from the bill by Conger, Bragg, Hawley and Reed. It has since been learned that two offers by individual members of the House to pay the widow the sum which the law forbids the Government to pay were rejected with considerable indignation by the Southern champions of the widow's cause. One of these offers was made by Chittenden, of New York, who was at first disposed to vote for the bill, but will now vote against it, having been converted by the rejection of his offer. The other was by Hendrick B. Wright, the Pennsylvania Greenbacker, noted for his charity. The widow does not seem to need the money. The hordes of claimants to whom the question of Rebel claims is not a myth

NEED THE PRECEDENT.

The contest over the case is not ended. Representatives Brewer, of Michigan, and Briggs, of New Hampshire, who are members of the Naval Committee which reported the bill with a favorable recommendation, united in a minority report against it, and made good speeches to-day on the same side of the question. Mr. Goode advocated the passage of the bill as a matter of right and justice. From this point the discussion waxed warm. Mr. Conger made a vigorous speech, which was evidently designed to draw the fire of the enemy, and which answered the purpose admirably. Mr. House, of Tennessee, Mr. Hooker, of Mississippi, and Mr. S. S. Cox

HASTENED TO PUT THEMSELVES ON THE WRONG SIDE

of the question. Mr. Cox's speech contained a great deal of sentimentalism—the Blue and the Gray. Mr. Hooker made his usual impassioned speech about the banks of Runnymede, King John and Robert Emmet. He closed with a glowing panegyric upon Robert E. Lee, which was heartily applauded by the ex-Confederates present and by Congressman Springer, who clapped his hands with genuine enthusiasm. One of the best speeches of this session was that made by Gen. Bragg, of Wisconsin. Referring to some resolutions made by a Southern member to the "Constitution as it was," Gen. Bragg remarked that he did not rise to expound the Constitution. If he needed instruction regarding that instrument, he said he should not seek it from men who had done their worst to destroy the Constitution.

THIS UTTERANCE

was greeted with enthusiastic applause by the Republicans. Gen. Bragg said he did not propose to be seduced by any glittering generalities or flowery rhetoric from Mr. Cox, or by any sentimentalism or sympathy for an aged widow. A principal was at stake, and he proposed to stand by it. His comparison of Capt. Page with Benedict Arnold was very well drawn. Gen. Bragg declared that he was as tired of the discussions about "the late Rebellion" as anybody could be; but they would never cease until Southern men stopped loading the House calendar with Rebel claims. The Democrats

SAT COLD AND SULLEN

throughout the delivery of Gen. Bragg's admirable speech, which was received with manifestations of hearty approval on the Republican side. When he sat down and looked around, it was to meet cold looks from his brother Democrats on all sides. Gen. Hawley followed Gen. Hawley followed Gen. Bragg, and said that the most that he had intended to say had been much better said by the gentleman from Wisconsin. Gen. Hawley, however, found words to enforce the truths which Gen. Bragg had uttered. It was reserved for Mr. Goode, who had charge of the bill, to make

THE CHAMPION BLUNDER OF THE DAY.

The claim, he said, was an honest and a just one. In his loftiest manner Mr. Goode, who is never so eloquent as when advocating an appropriation for the benefit of Virginia or a Virginian, desired the "House to understand that the widow of Hugh M. Page, the hero of the battle of Lake Erie, is not here to beg alms. If the Government refuses to pay this just claim it will be guilty of rank repudiation. If they do this, let them look out for other debts of this Government." Mr. Goode's threat did not seem to startle anybody. He comes from a State where repudiation is no new thing. The bill was passed by a vote of 79 to 69 in Committee of the Whole. The yeas and nays will be demanded in the House.

ONE POINT THAT WAS URGED

by the Democrats ought not to escape attention. This was that Capt. Page, being dead now, his heirs ought not to be deprived of this money, which is a portion of his estate. The same reasoning will apply to every one of the thousands of Rebel claims which have been filed or prepared as soon as the original claimants are dead. People who do not believe that Rebel claims are a living issue since Gen. Hancock wrote his letter on the subject should read the official report of the proceedings in the House to-day. Besides being a very lively issue, Rebel claims receive the almost unanimous support of both Northern and Southern Democrats in the House of Representatives.

SOME SNAKE STORIES.

Told by Cavalry Soldiers—How a Toad Beat a Rattlesnake.

Chicago Times.

Last evening three cavalry soldiers sat in a South Town lager beer saloon and over their foaming glasses and pipes rehearsed their experiences during last Summer on the plains and barren sands of New Mexico and Arizona. They were brawny, muscular fellows, with bright, intelligent eyes and weather-beaten faces and that indifferent, matter-of-course air characteristic of the frontiersman and old soldier. "Snakes!" exclaimed one of the saberers as he blew away the cloud of smoke that almost concealed his countenance—"I thought I had seen snakes among the buttes or clay hills of Wyoming, but I never knew what reptiles were until I got down into Arizona. Why, I've seen 50 tarantulas in a single-file column, the leader as big as the rim of your hat, following a buffalo trail to the water to drink. Tarantulas always follow each other in Indian file. Some people think a tarantula's bite is not poisonous, but I tell you it is certain death. I've seen a tarantula jump four feet to strike a horse in the face, and in 15 minutes that horse's face would swell to an enormous size. He would act as though he had the blind staggers, and then in a little while drop dead. Moccasins! by the thousands! The plains of Arizona and New Mexico are full of snakes, and everywhere in the vicinity of a stream of water are the moccasins. Their bite, too, is certain death. Strange these snakes never bite wild animals or the Indians. No one ever heard of an Apache Indian having been bitten by a snake. They seem to be of one and the same nature. You never heard of snakes fighting among themselves, nor of an Apache fighting snakes. Deer and antelope know how to defend themselves from snakes. I once was out hunting and got very close to a fine-looking buck and was about to give him a shot when my interest was excited by his strange conduct. His eyes appeared fixed upon some object on the ground, and through the telescope of my rifle I was able to see, close before him, an enormous rattlesnake. He had coiled himself into that peculiar position the rattlesnake takes just as he is about to strike. Instantly the deer stamped upon him with both his front feet and trod the reptile into a jelly. I shot the deer and I got the snake. It had 12 enormous rattles. All the wild animals appear to be on the lookout for reptiles. A wolf never lies down without walking round and round in a circle for some moments, until it has trod every inch of ground almost, upon which it lies. So with the elk, deer and antelope, or any wild animal."

"But why are not more persons bitten by the moccasin than are?" inquired a bystander. "I hear they are a very difficult reptile to kill"

"Yes, they are difficult to kill unless you know how to make them kill themselves," replied the frontiersman and scout. "The first thing a moccasin does when it is alarmed, is to inflate itself with air. Then it is as flabby as a sponge, and if you were to hurl a stone upon it it would have no seeming effect. The way to dispose of a moccasin is just to strike it with a switch or your riding whip, so as to sting it, and it will instantly bite itself, and in three minutes be a dead snake."

"What do snakes live on?"

"Whatever they can get hold of—flies, grasshoppers, berries and toads. They are very fond of fresh meat, and a good-sized toad is a luscious feast for a millionaire."

"Yes," spoke up another soldier, who had been listening with approving silence to his comrade's recital of the habits of the reptile, "but even the toad knows how to defend itself against the voracity of the rattlesnake. A rattlesnake never bites anything it swallows, and so it will cram a toad down its throat whole. I once saw a rattlesnake, about six feet long, trying to capture a large toad. The toad adopted a novel method to thwart the reptile's intent on. The snake had come upon the toad unawares, and it could not turn tail and jump, else the snake would spring and catch him in his jaws. So the toad took up a small stick, about six inches long, holding it at the center in its mouth. The snake's mouth could not be distended to a width of six inches, and so facing the snake, with the stick in its mouth, the toad wearied his would-be destroyer out of all patience, and finally he gave up his efforts and crawled away. The toad dropped dropped the stick and hopped to a safer retreat.

"Somewhat of a snake story that, my friend."

"Yes, but as true as Washington Irving's story of the snake, prairie dog and owl, which all who read believe, unless they have been enlightened to the contrary by some one who has lived on the plains."

Unwise Clemency.

Cincinnati Gazette.

The New York *Herald* prints a list of sentences of army officers by Court Martial, which Pres. Hayes has set aside, which shows that he has confirmed the convictions of only 19 officers out of 60 found guilty of gross offenses, most of them involving drunkenness on duty, and nearly all that which is technically termed conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, and that he has retained 41 who were convicted. The record looks formidable on its face, but when the General of all the armies sets an example of insubordination and of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentlemen, the natural consequence is a relaxation of discipline in the whole army; also his immunity makes inconsistent the execution of rigid judgment on subaltern officers.

Compulsory Education.

New York Sun.

On the whole, looking back over the last 10 years, we can see that the Continental system of compulsory education has lost ground in the United States. Our people object not so much to the principle as to the process and expedients requisite for its application. They exhibit here what may be called the rough side of a natural virtue; for an unconquerable aversion to official oversight and intermeddling, even when undertaken from the best motives, is inseparable from habits of self-regulation and self-help. We have learned to think that partial acquisitions are better when self-earned than the imposing but emasculating favors of paternal governments.

A colored man went into a Galveston newspaper office and wanted to take the paper. "How long do you want it?" asked the clerk. "Jess as long as it is, boss. Ef it don't fit de shelves, I can t'ar a piece off myself."—*Galveston News.*

PROPOSED CHANGES

In the Army Department.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—A scheme is on foot among certain set in army circles for the benefit of Gen. Schofield and St. Louis. It appears that St. Louis has still a grudge against Gen. Sheridan, because he removed all the officers of that division to Chicago. Some time ago Gen. Schofield stated confidentially that he should not remain long at New Orleans. In fact, it was intimated in certain quarters that the matter had been fixed and as soon as Gen. Garfield should come into the White House he would be assigned to some more congenial command. Among other changes made recently, was that of Lieut. Col. Amos Beckwith, a candidate for the position of Commissary General when Gen. McFeely was appointed, who was ordered from New York to New Orleans, as Assistant Commissary General for the new department. So much objection was made by Col. Beckwith and his friends that he was sent to St. Loris, and is there now. The scheme is, that about May 1, Gen. Schofield will demonstrate to Pres. Garfield that it will be impracticable to stay in New Orleans during the Summer, owing to the probability of sickness there, and suggest St. Louis as a temporary location for headquarters. The business men of St. Louis will make an effort to have the headquarters at that City permanently, and, if necessary, an attempt will be made to change the boundaries of the department to accommodate the new situation of the commander. If Chicago is to have the Lieutenant General and chief offices of the division of the Missouri, St. Louis is bound to be at least the seat of a department headquarters, and her efforts are seconded by the commander, who is determined not to remain at New Orleans.

ANOTHER ELDORADO.

The Fabulous Stories Told of Alaska Gold.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 10.—The steamer "California," 13 days from Sitka, brings the sensational news that Alaska is afflicted with the gold fever. Some two months ago genuine quartz croppings were discovered near the Token River, about 80 miles north of Sitka.

The indications of a rich lode were so strong that the discovery created excitement, which has increased with every breath of news from the Eldorado. Specimens of quartz brought from the Vinte Mines by Capt. Carroll have assayed as high as $3,000 to the ton. It is of whitish yellow, profusely sprinkled with sulphur. The rock is rich enough, if found in large quantities, to make a bonanza king of every man in Sitka, and they appear to have become imbued with that idea.

As no means of transportation can be furnished until the California returns, the excited merchants have to remain in Sitka at present. According to the best authenticated reports, however, they are pulling down the stores and packing their mining implements for a trip to the Token District, and when the "California" goes back she will transform the lonely station into a busy mining camp.

At present there are about 50 men on the gold field, though Capt. Carroll says but 11 claims have been located. The mines can not be worked before the end of March, but while waiting for the snow to melt the adventurers will lay out their Town. The "Californian" will take back all the lumber she can carry.

An Investigation Wanted.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Roscoe Conkling has fired a Parthian shot at the Administration. He asked, in a formidable series of resolutions, for information as to the existing systems of Civil Service in the New York Custom House. Mr. John Sherman, who joined in the movement which resulted in the removal of Chester A. Arthur as Collector of New York, on the ground that Civil Service principles were violated, has been directed by the Senate to inform that body whether there is any better civil service in that Custom house now than there was then. If a full answer shall be made to the voluminous inquiry propounded, the friends of Gen. Arthur maintain that it will be found that he, as Collector, proposed the reforms which were attempted, if they have not been effected, and he proposed them long before the Hayes' administration undertook to carry out the Evarts policy as regards New York politics.

He Snored not Wisely but too Loud.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 11.—At Paris, Ill., yesterday an Alderman of the Town was fined $3 and costs for snoring in the Methodist Church during funeral services

A STREET CAR SCENE.

How a New Orleans Man Created Consternation Among the Passengers.

New Orleans Times

Recently a man dressed in good clothes, an eye-glass and a gold-mounted cane, and possessing altogether a rather clerical appearance, halted a passenger street car. There was nothing unusual or particularly noticeable in this, except the air of lofty dignity with which he commanded a halt, and the desperate effort which he made to maintain his center of gravity as he passed the car, and revealed the fact that he was slightly inebriated. Arriving at the door, he solemnly raised his right foot to enter, but not raising it high enough, he fell headlong on the floor of the car. Raising himself up with some difficulty, he cast a severely reproving look at the old gentleman sitting near the door and said:

"Sir, what d'you lift this car for just as I was goin' to get in?"

"My dear sir, I didn't lift the car," replied the old gentleman meekly.

"Well, perhaps you didn't. I won't 'tempt to argue with a man in your condition. My amiable friend, it is my firm and deliberate 'pinion you've been looking upon the wine that is red. Very sorry to see it in a man of your age. What'd s'pose your mother would say if she would see you intoxsicated? My friend, I have shed many bitter tears over such cases as yours. Yes," continued he in a faltering voice, and pulling out his handkerchief, "and I'm blessed if I ain't weeping now, as you readily observe."

Whereupon he wiped his eyes with a grand flourish, blew his nose, and navigated to the other end of the car. When he reached his destination he pulled the bell strap and started for the door. When he got about half way, and that as he was in front of a lady, he tripped and fell at full length on the floor. Raising himself to a perpendicular, he turned to the lady, and, in a mingled tone of severity and whisky, said:

"Madam, you've certainly got the biggest feet I ever saw in my life."

"Sir" said the lady, indignantly.

"O, don't 'pologize, madam. I beg you not to 'pologize. You're not to blame for it. But if you would just pare 'em down a little 'twould be a great 'commodation to the traveling public."

The lady was speechless with indignation, the passengers were convulsed, and the gentleman stalked mechanically out to the door, stepped to the ground, and immediately sat down. As the car moved away he arose, examined his clothes, looked up and down the street, waved hand in an uncertain manner, and walked away.

A Woman's Revenge.

Tuscaloosa (Ala.) Citizen.

A woman peddling laces entered this Town several days ago and was plying her traffic without license. One of our merchants reported the fact to the City officers and she was fined. Obtaining the name of the merchant making complaint she went to his store and stealthily mutilated three shawls—cutting numerous holes in them with a pair of scissors. The merchant discovered the damage to his goods, and the woman, after denying at first that she did it, finally owned up and paid for the damage done.

Novel Cause of a Man's Death.

Las Cruces (N. M.) Thirty-Four.

Canuto Apodaca was last week thrown from a mule in Mesilla and killed. A dog caught the mule by the tail, causing him to throw his rider and drag him a considerable distance.

COUNTING THE VOTE

For President and Vice President.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—An hour before the meeting of the House and two hours before the time appointed for counting the Electoral Vote for President and Vice President, the galleries of the House were filled with spectators, a large majority of them were ladies. On the floor a few wooden chairs were sandwiched in between the seats of members for the accommodation of Senators, but otherwise there was no indication of any save the usual business of the House was to be routine business transacted.

The indifference shown by members, who seemed only anxious to obtain seats in the galleries, was in marked contrast with the excitement which prevailed during the Electoral Count four years ago.

After reading yesterday's journal, the morning hour was dispensed with and the House went into a Committee of the Whole on the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill. The committee, without concluding the bill, rose, and Mr. Singleton offered a resolution, according the privileges of the floor to the ladies who have not been able to obtain seats in the galleries. The resolution being adopted, a large number of ladies entered the chamber and obtained seats. A few minutes past 12, the Doorkeeper announced the arrival of the Vice President and the Senators, who then filed into the chamber. Vice President Wheeler took the seat on the right hand of Speaker Randall, and the Senators were accommodated with chairs in front of the rows of desks.

The Vice President called the Assembly to order and said: "The two houses being assembled in pursuance of the Constitution that the votes may be counted and declared for President and Vice President on the fourth day of March, 1881, it becomes my duty under the Constitution as President of the Senate, to open the certificates of election of the several States of the Union, in presence of the two houses, and so now proceed to discharge that duty."

The tellers, Thurman and Hamlin on the part of the Senate, and House and Crowley on the part of the House, having taken their places at the Clerk's desk, the Vice President said; "I open a package purporting to contain certificate of election from the State of Alabama, and hand the certificate to be reported."

The certificate, having been read very slowly by Sen. Hamlin, and having shown that the Electors of the State of Alabama had cast 10 votes for Winfield S. Hancock for President, and 10 votes for Wm. H. English for Vice President, the Vice President said: "The vote of the State of Alabama having been recorded by the tellers, I open and hand to them the certificate of election of the State of Arkansas."

The 6 votes of Arkansas having been recorded for W. S. Hancock for President, and W. H. English for Vice President, on motion of Mr. Reagan the reading of the merely formal portions of the certificates was dispensed with.

The certificate from California showed that 5 of the 6 votes of that State had been cast for Hancock and English, and 1 for Garfield and Arthur.

The 3 votes of Colorado were recorded for Garfield and Arthur.

The 3 votes of Delaware were recorded for Hancock and English.

The 4 votes of Florida were recorded for Hancock and English.

The next certificate handed the tellers was from the State of Georgia, and it was read by Mr. Crowley, the reading in full being demanded by Mr. Springer. The certificate shows that the 8th of December, 1880, the votes of Georgia were cast for Hancock and English. The Vice President then said, "It appearing from the certificate just read that the vote of Georgia was cast on the day other than that fixed for casting such votes by act of Congress, in pursuance of the Constitution of the United States, this certificate will not be recorded until, in the language of the concurrent resolution under which this count proceeds; it will appear whether counting or omitting to count such votes will change the result of the election.

The 21 votes of Illinois were then recorded for Garfild and Arthur; the 15 votes of Indiana were recorded for Garfield and Arthur; the 11 votes of Iowa for Garfield and Arthur; the 5 votes of Kansas for Garfield and Arthur; the 12 votes of Kentucky for Hancock and English; the 8 votes of Louisiana for Hancock and English; the 7 votes of Maine for Garfield and Arthur; the 8 votes of Maryland for Hancock and English; the 13 votes of Massachusetts for Garfield and Arthur; the 11 votes of Michigan for Garfield and Arthur; the 5 votes of Minnesota for Garfield and Arthur; the 8 votes of Mississippi for Hancock and English; the 15 votes of Missouri for Hancock and English; the 3 votes of Nebraska for Garfield and Arthur; the 3 votes of Nevada for Hancock and English; the 5 votes of New Hampshire for Garfield and Arthur; the 9 votes of New Jersey for Hancock and English; the 35 votes of New York for Garfield and Arthur; the 10 votes of North Carolina for Hancock and English; the 22 votes of Ohio for Garfield and Arthur; the 3 votes of Oregon for Garfield and Arthur; the 29 votes of Pennsylvania for Garfield and Arthur.

The count proceeded in this manner throughout the list of States—the result being announced that "if the vote of Georgia be counted," or "if the vote of Georgia be not counted," but that in either event Garfield and Arthur had received a majority of the electoral vote. The announcement was received with applause, and the two Houses separated.

FRIGHTFUL COLLISION

Between a Passenger and Construction Train.

PANA, Ill., Feb. 9.—A terrible and fatal accident occured 10 miles northwest of this City at Owaneco, yesterday evening. The construction train on the Ohio & Mississippi road was backing towards Owaneco, at about 12 miles per hour, in order to give the passenger a free passage northwest. Workmen on the train had been laying new rails and taking up old one, and had a flat car full of iron just in front of the caboos. Twenty or 30 workmen were crowded into the caboose. The passenger train was coming at an unusual speed, in order to make up lost time, and the two collided with a fearful shock.

The engine of the passenger train tore through the caboose, pushing the occupants among the massas of iron on flat cars, killing three outright, Allen Jones, W. W. Fatllock and H. McPherson, and wounding the following: Louis Selby, conductor of the passenger train, seriously; Jacob Hoadley, Thomas Virden, Charles McGowan, Frank Green, Owen Gleeson, Charles Mills, Dan Donohue, John Hardman and Charles Walcher. Lockhart, conductor of the construction train, is responsible for the accident.

The Canadian Pacific Railroad.

WINNIPEG, Feb. 9.—The roof of the Canadian Pacific Railroad freight sheds fell the entire length, over 200 feet, to-day, from the weight of snow. No one was injured. Work has been suspended on the first hundred miles of the Canadian Pacific Railroad west, and most of the men have returned to the City. It is believed the suspension is only temporary. The greater portion of the men expect to be re-engaged under the

News of the Week.

TELEGRAPHIC CONDENSATIONS.

De Lesseps has received a telegram from Panama announcing the commencement of operations on the canal.

A suspension of work is announced on the first 100 miles of the Canada Pacific Railway westward from Winnipeg.

At a fair in Killkeely, Ireland, the people stoned the police, and at Ballyhanis the police charged a crowd with bayonets.

James Hickey, a noted criminal, was shot dead by the marshal at Collinsville, Tenn., after he had wounded two persons.

Ex-Gov. Stephen A. Miller, of Minnesota, is stricken with apoplexy and cannot recover. He was Governor in 1864 and 1866.

Two grand children of a farmer named Wagner, living near McHenry, Ills., perished in his house, which burned Wednesday night.

The builders of Cincinnati have been notified that on April 1 a general strike of the trades connected with building operations will take place.

Green Jackson, (colored), was hanged at Marion, Crittenden County, Ark., Friday, for the murder of another negro committed last Spring.

According to estimates of the State Agricultural Bureau, the farm and live stock products of Illinois during 1880 aggregate $326,000,000.

The Democracy of Irving Hall, New York, offer to confer with the Committee of One Hundred in regard to the reorganization of the party in this City.

On the application of Mrs. Kate N. Doggett, Judge Barnum has decided to appoint a receiver for the firm of Bassett, Hills & Crane, a Chicago boot and shoe house.

A Pottsville, Pa., dispatch says: "Fire rages in the Richardson Colliery, the gas being ignited by a blast. There are frequent explosions. The mine will be flooded.

J. Albert, who secured second place in the recent six day's pedestrian match, is the "unknown" chosen by O'Leary to pit against Rowell in the contest to come off in New York March 6.

The steamship "Josephine" from Havana for New Orleans, was wrecked near Ship Island. The passengers were all saved, being picked up after floating about in open boats for seven hours.

The Treasury Department has relieved the sub-Treasury at Cincinnati of $25,000 in silver, the vaults of Cincinnati becoming glutted with coin. They are the smallest vaults the Government has.

Hon. John F. Swift, of California, the American commissioner, who negotiated the treaty with China, arrived at Cleveland yesterday en route to Washington. He called on General Garfield at Mentor.

The jury in the case of Joseph Kotovsky, of St. Louis, whose third trial for killing his sweetheart, Augusta Simon, October 10, 1878, returned a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree.

It is said the probable total rice crop of Louisiana will not exceed 200,000 barrels. Georgia will have about 45,000 tierces and Carolina 60,000 tierces. A barrel contains about 230 pounds; a tierce 600 pounds.

The New York Public to-day says that exchanges at New York in January were the largest ever known in any month by nearly $400,000,000. Outside of New York the aggregate is not quite as largeas December.

Lieut. Cook and a squad of soldiers are on the way to Fort Leavenworth with four Mescalero Apaches who spent eight months with Victoria and afterwards incited a revolt at Fort Stanton. Their leader is a negro, who has done hard fighting in several bloody struggles with our troops.

It is intimated in Washington that Gov. Murray, of Utah, was actuated by other than motives of public policy in refusing a certificate of election to Delegate Cannon, the Mormon. Governor Murray is understood to be interested in a mine, to work which Mr. Campbell has advanced money.

A prominent Democratic member of the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee thinks an investigation ought to be made of Gen. Arthur's birth place. If, after consultation with the chairman (Saulsbury) the latter agrees with him as to its importance, he would introduce a resolution in the Senate to order an investigation.

Garfield's Cabinet Intentions.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—A gentleman who has just arrived from Mentor says, on the subject of the Cabinet, that though Gen. Garfield may have determined in his own mind one, two or three persons who may be invited to the cabinet, but as yet even they have not yet been notified by Gen. Garfield of his intentions. Nothing has yet been finally decided as to geographical representation in the Cabinet. Gen. Garfield was expected to arrive in Washington soon after the count of electoral vote, but it is stated by the gentleman referred to that he will not be here till about the 1st of March. If Gen. Garfield does not desire to be badly badgered by political guerrillas, he will not venture into Washington before midnight March 3. Place hunters here are daily growing more desperate.

Jay Gould and the New York Express.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—The Express says of the report that a portion of the stock of that paper has been sold to Jay Gould, that "one of the stockholders of the paper, now in Europe, has disposed of his interest for private reasons, but Gould is not the purchaser, the shares in question do not effect in the least the ownership and control of the paper, and it is safe to say that Gould has no more chance of absorbing the Express than of buying the obelisk.

Where Are the Remains.

BRADFORD, Pa., Feb. 15.—F. A. McClain, in the employ of the Roberts Torpedo Co., this morning was driving along the highway, 15 miles southeast of Branford in a sleigh, with 200 pounds of nitro glycerine. The horses became frightened, ran against a boulder and caused an explosion. McClain was torn to mince meat, both horses were killed and no evidences of the sleigh could be found. McClain was a young man and unmarried. His parents are said to reside in Beaver Falls, Pa.

Instantly Killed.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 14.—The engineer of the south bound freight on the Cincinnati & Southern Road, when near Sloans Valley, Saturday night, saw a huge boulder on the track. He reversed and called for brakes, but too late. George March and a young brakeman promptly answered the call, and in the wreck were instantly killed. The engine and six cars were thrown from the track.

Fernando Gone.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 14.—Hon. Fernando Wood, member of Congress from New York, died at Hot Springs, at 10 o'clock last night.

Stammering and Stuttering.

A representative of this paper recently called upon an exceedingly gifted and talented gentleman, Dr. E. S. Rivenburgh, who is now stopping at the "Burnett House" in Toledo. This man is known far and wide as the originator of a method of *Instruction*, which will guarantee, and in every instance does cure any case of Stammering, Stuttering or Impediment in Speech. There is no knife, no medicine, no quackery used, but merely a thorough scientific and practical knowledge of the human voice. The Doctor has been engaged in this calling for more than 10 years past, and in that time has

CURED OVER 1,000 PERSONS.

Of this we are satisfied from a critical examination of private testimonials, and hundreds of press notices in his possession. He accepts no money for his services until he effects a cure. He may be consulted, free of charge,) or addressed as above.

THE FLOODS.

Damage Throughout Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana—Severe Snow Storm in Wisconsin and Missouri.

OHIO AND INDIANA.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 12.—Dispatches to morning papers show increased damage by floods throughout Indiana and Ohio. At Troy, O., the hydraulic reservoir burst and the town was inundated, doing much damage.

The Tuscarawas River is higher than it has been for 30 years. Thousands of acres of farm lands are overflowed and many families obliged to leave their homes. Trains have been discontinued. The Scioto River at Circleville has broken several levees, and the bridge on the Muskingum Valley Road is considered unsafe; trains do not cross.

At Muncie, Ind., the fine iron bridge was washed away and several dams are gone. Many families are driven from their houses.

Trains on the Cincinnati, Richmond & Chicago Road have been stopped two days.

The bridge over the Miami, near Hamilton, O., on the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Road, cannot be used.

WISCONSIN.

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 12.—A heavy snow storm prevailed last night. It is reported very severe all through the State. It is drifting badly and all trains expect to be blockaded again.

The worst storm of the season at Madison last night.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Feb. 14.—The snow blockade proves to be general throughout the Northwest. No trains north or west up to midnight. All roads have a large force of men and plows at work, and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul lines except the Northern Division, will start trains in the morning. It is considered the most effectual blockade ever known in Wisconsin.

PENNSYLVANIA.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 12.—The ice in the Susquehannah at this point broke this afternoon. Five miles below the City it gorged and the water rose at the rate of two feet per hour. The Pennsylvania Railroad tracks for almost a mile are covered with water and ice to a depth of over three feet and trains both ways are delayed. Train men have been sent to the scene, but are unable to work until the water recedes.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 12.—A serious disaster to the Charleston & Savannah Railroad occured last night, resulting from the freshet in the Savannah river. About two miles of the trestle work north of the river have been prostrated. A force of 500 hands have been put at work repairing the break. Meantime through passengers for Florida will be forwarded hence by the steamer "St. Johns."

MISSOURI.

ST. JOSEPH, Feb. 12.—The heaviest snow storm of the season prevailed here yesterday. It commenced at 4 A. M., and continued till a late hour in the night. The snow had drifted badly, obstructing all railroads so that no trains have arrived or been sent from here.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—Dispatches from various points on the Hudson, Delaware & Schuylkill River report serious damage from freshets. At Manayunk, Pa., mills were flooded and work stopped. An immense ice gorge at Binghampton; water works flooded.

LOUISIANA.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 12.—There is no material change in the condition of the water of the overflowed districts. Ten thousand persons were supplied with food yesterday by the Relief Committee. A heavy rain this morning. A strong wind prevails.

THE TROUBLE IN WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—The flood, which, rushing down the Potomac Saturday, submerged the lower portion of the City for nearly 24 hours has subsided. An immense ice gorge extending from above the City to a point several miles below and reaching nearly to the Virginia shore, threatens destruction to wharves and steamboats lying at them when it does move. The damage to vessels, wharves and property along the river is estimated at between $50,000 and $100,000. Most of the wharf owners expect greater danger when the massed ice moves. Damage to property and merchandize in the inundated portion of the City will probably reach $100,000, and in Georgetown to wharves and store houses $75,000. A section of Long Bridge, about 200 feet long was swept away last night. It was carried about 100 yards down the river to the flats, where it lies badly wrecked, wedged in with broken ice. Telegraphic communication with the South is badly interrupted, as all cables at Long Bridge have been carried away. Last night only two out of 20 wires were working between Washington and Alexandria. Railroad travel to the South, on account of the break in the bridge, will be seriously impeded. Arrangements have been made to transfer passengers and mails for Richmond and the coast by stages from Washington over Georgetown bridge to the Alexandria, Fredericksburg Richmond road at Fort Runyon, while passengers and mails for Lynchburg and the South will be sent to Shepherd, opposite Alexandria, and thence by ferry to the Virginia Midland Road.

IN MISSOURI AND KANSAS.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 14.—Dispaches from different parts of the State say the railroads are still blocked with snow in various places, but large gangs of men are working day and night, and probability is, they will be clear by to day or to-morrow, and trains will be running on schedule time. The deepest snow seems to have fallen in Kansas, and the roads in that State suffered most. The Kansas Pacific and Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe are badly blocked, and stuck trains are scattered all along the line. The storm is over now, however, and every exertion is being made to clear the tracks and get the trains moving regularly again. Weather here is moderating slightly, but the mercury is still below freezing point.

THE BLOCKADE RAISED.

DAVENPORT, Ia., Feb. 14.—The general blockade which has resulted from the terrible snow storm of Friday night, is now largely remedied. Superintendent Kimball, of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, says through trains will be running between Chicago and Council Bluffs to day. The drifts on the main line of this road in Iowa have been in some places 10 feet deep, for two miles, and all cuts have been filled.

NO MAILS IN VIRGINIA.

FREDERICKSBURG, Feb. 14.—The Rappahannock reached the hight of 15 feet above low water mark. Some cribbing and lumber belonging to the contractor for the river improvement was carried off, and the steamboat warehouse is under water to the second story. No mails and no through trains since Friday.

NEW JERSEY CATCHES IT.

BORDENTOWN, N. J., Feb. 14.—The freshet is tremendous here. The railroad tracks between Trenton and Burlington are under water, a canal boat is lying across the track on the Trenton road. All the small buildings near the Delaware and Raritan canal locks are partly under water. The old Camden & Amboy shops are inundated, the fires of the steam ferge of McPherson Willard & Co., were put out by floods. As far as the eye can reach the Pennsylvania shore is covered with water. The railroad bridge on the main line between Bordentown and New York is in a perilous position, 27 loaded cars have been placed to hold it in position. Water is at the axles of the wheels.

The Baroness Married.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—Baroness Burdett-Coutts and William L. Ashmead Bartlett were married this morning at Christ Church.

Do not buy cheap medicines on the score of economy. The best are none too good for the sick, and are cheapest. Such are the Cherry Pectoral, the Sarsaparilla, and other standard remedies of Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co. They are worth all they cost, and should be in every house.

PENSION FRAUDS.

How They May be Done Away With.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—On the 25th of January Mr. E. B. Loring, of Boston, called on the President and presented petitions from nearly all the Grand Army Posts of Massachusetts, asking that some action be taken to secure the speedy settlement of pension claims. The President was urged to send a special message to Congress upon the subject, and promised to take the matter in earnest consideration, expressing at the same time his own deep interest in it. The President soon afterwards referred the petition with the accompanying letter to the Secretary of the Interior, who in turn, sent them to the Commissioner of Pensions, requesting an expression of his opinion upon the subject. Commissioner Bentley makes the following suggestions: The delays and injustice to claimants and the frauds upon the Government are mainly due to the secret ex-parte methods of preparing evidence and to insufficient clerical force in the Pension Office. A different system, under which testimony can be taken in public, is recommended, as well as an addition to the clerical force. These additions should be of men educated in the law and capable of exercising judicial discretion. Promptness in the settlement of claims would be greatly promoted by such a system. To adequately increase the force, however, so that the work could be done to advantage it would be necessary to divide the business of the office. This has been impracticable so far, as the records have not been capable of division. Lately new records for a considerable portion of the work have been finished, and a partial division would now be practicable. If Congress shall decide to increase the force there should be an immediate addition of 100 Examiners, with a corresponding number of copyists on July 1, and in addition a corresponding number of clerks should be given to the Surgeon General and Adjutant-General. The force of Special Agents should be increased, so that they could make special investigations on the spot, and an appropriation of $250,000 is recommended for that purpose, and it is also suggested that the law be amended so that the Special Agents would have authority to investigate suspected pension claims. Mr. Bentley prefers the first recommendation, which is in substance the principle of the Sixty-Surgeon bill.

THE FIGHTING BOERS.

Vivid Description of the Late Battle.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—Dispatches from Durban admit a great British defeat. The following is a description of the fight: The enemy were on horseback when first seen, but upon a shell taking effect among them at about 1,500 yards distance, they rode off, and having dismounted under cover behind hills, opened fire. From 12 until dusk it was a rifle duel. Under cover, our guns from time to time took part in it, but the enemy's fire was so severe it was impossible to work the guns continually, men falling almost as soon as they stood up. With the sole exception of Lieut. Parsons, who was wounded late in the day, every officer, driver, gunner and horse in the battery was hit shortly after the action began. The guns were completely silenced for an hour. The infantry then assisted. One piece was thus kept in action throughout the day, but it was dangerous duty, and those serving it had continually to be replaced. The guns were actually whitened all over with the marks of bullets, and for anybody to stand up beside them was certain death. The enemy occasionally crept up to within 200 yards of the position, but never attempted a rush. The greater portion of the fighting was at a distance of 600 or 700 yards.

The tactics of the Boers are described as admirable. They moved from flank to flank, opening fire time after time from unexpected positions. For our men to advance and charge at the point of the bayonet was impossible, for they would all have been shot down before reaching the enemy.

DUTIES ON SUGAR.

Sec. Sherman and the New York Chamber of Commerce.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—The Chamber of Commerce yesterday received a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, in reply to the committee appointed by the Chamber to investigate the alleged illegal collection of duties on sugar, and to ask the Secretary of the Treasury to rescind his order of Sept. 2, 1879, and to refund the excess of the duties collected under it above lawful duties as prescribed by existing statutes. In the letter the Secretary says:

"The Department, under order of Sept. 2, 1879, has undertaken to look through fradulent color and assess duty upon sugar at its true color. The order was prompted by the highest sense of official duty, with no other object than to prevent frauds upon the revenue, and to protect honest importers and sugar producers. Nothing has occurred to shake the confidence of the Department as to the correctness of the course pursued. The Government will be prepared for the trial of the pending cases in Court as soon they can be reached. It will be seen, therefore, that the request to abandon the suits and refund the duties in controversy cannot be complied with."

STANLEY MATTHEWS.

Little Hope of His Confirmation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—It now seems quite impossible that the nomination of Mr. Matthews can be gotten out of the Judiciary Committee. It is learned positively that Sen. Edmunds opposes his confirmation. This leaves Mr. Matthews with but two friends on the committee. Sen. Thurman told a Democratic member of the House yesterday this was the most painful public duty he had ever performed, but the growing sway of railroad corporations warned him that Mr. Matthews should not be elevated to the Supreme Bench, which is the last resort the people have against the grasping corporations. The Senator said that Mr. Matthews was one of the ablest lawyers in America, but he does not think him fitted for the Supreme Bench at a time when the corporations for which he had so long acted as counsel were seeking to control legislation and the Government itself.

A Democratic member of the House from Ohio, who is warmly attached to ex-Sen. Matthews, got every member of the Illinois delegation with two exceptions to visit Sen. Davis and try and bring him over to an advocacy of Mr. Matthews' confirmation, but it failed. Judge Davis is immovable; so is Thurman, so is Conkling, Edmunds and Carpenter. Nothing can be done in Committee, and unless the nomination can be gotten out of this Committee and before the Senate, it will expire with the present Administration. Meantime the New York papers are not idle. The Times throws another column editorial against the confirmation.

SYMPATHY FOR IRELAND.

An Immense Meeting in Boston

BOSTON, Feb. 12.—Faneuil Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity last night to express sympathy with Ireland. Mayor Prince presided. Wendell Phillips and Gen. Butler were among the speakers, and advocated giving moral and financial support to the people of Ireland in their present struggle. Gov. Long, in a letter, expressed sympathy for the cause of the Irish people so long as they seek within constitutional lines and by a legitimate method to secure their political and social welfare. Letters were also received from Josiah G. Abbott, ex-Gov. Rice and others. The resolutions call upon the people of Ireland to hold up to their purpose of reform and allow nothing to drive them to violence, for which they are not prepared.

Piano or Organ playing can be learned in one day's time by using Mason's Chart. They fit over the keys of the instrument, so any one can learn in a short time.

The price is only $1.00, for a set of four forms, with Music Album free. See advertisement. C. H. Spaulding & Co., Sole Agents, Boston, Mass.

POLITICAL MATTERS.

Stanley Matthews on the Coming Administration—Other Views Upon Similar Subjects.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—Stanley Matthews, nominated Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, was in the City yesterday. A Tribune reporter, according to its Sunday morning's ifsue, met him in the lobby of the hotel and made some inquiries concerning the political situation. Matthews said he had been so often misrepresented and his views distorted by political opponents that he had given up public utterances through the press. "As to your question concerning the incoming administration, I will say I know Gen. Garfield will give the country a strong administration. I do not believe any party could present a man who will bring about such general satisfaction from all interests and sections as Gen. Garfield will.

"Who will comprise the Cabinet?"

"I am certain Blaine will, for one."

The Tribune, Sunday morning, prints talks with other Republicans: Congressman Belford upon the Speakership said: "We recognize Hiscock's ability, but we in the West do not want New York State to have the Speakership."

"Yes," said ex-Congressman Ward, member from Chicago to the 43d Congress, "I have just returned from Washington, and I tell you the fight for the Speakership will be a determined one."

John C. New was asked what about Indiana and the Cabinet: "Indiana is a great State, and I have no doubt she will not be ignored by Gen. Garfield in selecting his advisers."

"Will the Republicans be able to hold the State of Indiana during the coming elections?"

"Only by tremendous hard work. My State is a close State for such a large population. Six thousand majority won't do to figure upon, as certainly nothing but strenuous efforts will insure permanent Republicanism in Indiana."

OUR GLORIOUS ARMY.

The Secretary of War's Opinion About It — Garfield's Administration.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—Secretary of War Ramsey was at the Fifth Avenue Hotel yesterday. In response to an inquiry by a Tribune reporter regarding the United States Army, he said: "The deplorable thing about our Army is, it is very much detached. To be effective it should be concentrated. In this day of railroad facilities there is no good reason for maintaining these many scattered Army posts. The present force is sufficiently large for all practical purposes, provided we could have a good effective force centered at one point."

In reference to Garfield's Cabinet appointments he said; "Sen. Blaine as Secretary of State will be the Premier of the incoming administration. Naturally he will have some voice in forming the next cabinet. Blaine is too much of a statesman to allow his private grievances to affect the welfare of the Republican party. Gen. Garfield entertains too broad views to permit such action. The members of Pres. Hayes's Cabinet will all retire, and if their record justifies their friends in presenting them for further official tenure possibly some of them may be connected with the next administration."

A CHICAGO MYSTERY.

Who Fired the Church?

CHICAGO, Feb. 15.—There is considerable excitement and interest regarding later developments as to the burning of the Michigan Avenue Baptist Church. The mystery is greater than ever since the janitor and his assistants have intimated their suspicion that the pastor, Rev. Kerr B. Tupper, is guilty of incendiarism. It is related that he left Paducah, Ky., under a cloud for the same reason, having been suspected of setting fire to a Church there, and burning some documents and, as he alleged, some money. His salary has always been meager, but he has a charming family, and no conceivable reason can be alleged for the commission of such a crime; and it is but just to say that in spite of his contradictory stories and idconsistent actions that the accusation is not generally made, and that there are many firm believers in his innocence.

ENGLAND.

HANLAN DEFEATS LAYCOCK.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—The race between Hanlan and Laycock over the Thames championship course for the championship of England, the Sportsman's challenge cup and £1,000, came off this afternoon, and was won easily by Hanlan by about four lengths. There was little betting on the race, the result being regarded as a foregone conclusion. Three to one on Hanlan was freely offered. Hanlan and Laycock visit Westminster Aquarium tonight. They leave for their respective homes shortly. Laycock, although rowing well and strongly, had no chance from the beginning. Weather cold and rainy, yet the tow-path along the river bank was thickly lined with spectators.

NOT A CORNER.

Everybody on the Bull Side.

CHICAGO, Feb. 15.—With regard to the strong tone in provisions, and the alleged corner, some dealers say it is no clique of rich men who are bulling them, but the whole rank and file of speculators and provision men are confident of a rise and are buying freely; that it is not the heavy dealers who are getting rich this time, but the crowd. It is believed, however, that prices are getting to a dangerous height, being about the same as during Armour's corner last year. Sales to-day were higher than yesterday, although the market has been fluctuating and nervous. Everything now depends on the developments as to the hog and grain crops. It is held by some commission men that both are shorter than heretofore believed.

WINTER WHEAT

Was not Injured by the Sudden Change in the Weather.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 15.—In response to inquiries sent to railroad agents through out the Winter wheat growing belt tributary to St. Louis, the Post-Dispatch to-day publishes a very full report of the acreage, present condition and prospect of Winter wheat crop. The reports given show that so far the damage by the late sudden and severe changes in the weather have been very slight and only in a few localities. The acreage is much larger than last year. Present condition favorable and prospects fair to good. Reports from Illinois are particularly encouraging and indicate a large yield of excellent quality.

Ho, for Mardi Gras!

Before leaving home don't forget to send for a ticket in time for next drawing of the Commonwealth Distribution Co., Feb. 28. Whole tickets, $2.00; halves, $1.00. Address R. M. Boardman, Louisville, Ky.

FELLOWS' HYPOPHOSPHITES

TUBERCULAR DISEASE OF LUNGS AND BRONCHITIS.

Tubercular consumption of the lungs is that form of the disease most common, most fatal, and until recently considered incurable. Tubercle, from which the name is derived, is a morbid product, deposited from diseased blood in various parts of the body; and in proportion as that fluid is impure, and length of time it remains so, will tubercular diathesis continue.

FALL RIVER, MASS., March 20, 1879.

James I. Fellows, Esq.:

DEAR SIR—About three years ago I was attacked with Bronchitis and Tubercular Disease of the left lung, and suffered for two years so severely that I was unable to attend to business. About a year ago I was advised to try Fellows' Syrup of Hypophosphites, and before I had finished one bottle my appetite and strength were greatly improved; my cough became less troublesome, my sleep was sound and refreshing, which had not been the case for over a year. I had suffered from nervousness and difficult breathing all the time I was sick; but your Syrup has cured WELL. I advise all persons afflicted as I was to use Fellows' Syrup of Hypophosphites.

(Signed) JAMES H. STEWART.

An endless chain of good effects is formed by Fellows' Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites, and we are safe in saying, from a long experience in medicine, IN NO INSTANCE ARE THEY KNOWN BY ANY OTHER COMBINATION.

DR. BULL'S COUGH SYRUP

The Markets.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK'S BUSINESS.

Financial.

TOLEDO, OHIO, WEDNESDAY, February 16, 1881.

The range for money in New York during the past week was 4@6 ₱ cent., with the bulk of the transactions at 5₱ cent. There is a growing general demand for money, and capitalists are gaining confidence in new undertakings. At the Stock Exchange the week was notable for an increase in the speculative fever, and strong upward movement in prices. Government bonds attracted no unusual attention, but prices ruled firm. State bonds were moderately active and strong throughout the week. In railroad bonds there was a general improvement in sympathy with the share market. The share market was irregular and feverish, with a pretty sharp advance established in nearly all the railway shares.

To-day's reports up to latest hour by telegraph to the BLADE say money is loaning at 5@6 per cent. on call. Prime mercantile paper, 4@5 ₱ cent. Bar, silver, 112¾c. Exchange steady at 483½ long; 485¾, sight. Government Bonds quiet and firm. State Bonds dull and nominal. Railroad Bonds in moderate demand. Since 11 o'clock the stock market has been irregular, and in the main weak and lower, and at noon the general list showed a decline of ¾ to 1¼ ₱ cent., the latter in Nash. & Chattanooga. 1881 registered, ——; coupons, 101¾; new fives, registered, ——; coupons, 102½; new four-and-a-halfs, registered, ——; coupons, 112½; new fours, registered, ——; coupons, ——; U. S. coupons, 113; Pacific 6s of 95, 125 bid.

The value ($8,302,182) of the exports of merchandise from the port of New York for the week ended February 8, was $2,077,181 greater than for the same week of 1880, while the value ($6,228,763) of the imports of merchandise for the week ended Saturday is $1,978,483 less than for the corresponding week of 1880. The total movements at the port from January 1 to the dates named show an increase of $5,635,584 in the value of the exports against a decrease of $18,806,332 in the value of the imports.

The imports of specie last week amounted to to $100,776 making a total since January 1 of $1,821,276 against 1,239,272 for the same time in 1880. The exports of specie from January 1 to date amount to $1,320,675 against $997,597 in 1880. These charges show a comparative difference of $16,273,650 in favor of this port on the foreign movements, other than of securities, Since January 1.

The statement of the Associated banks of New York for the week ended Monday was as follows:

	Decrease.	Increase.
Loans	$	$1,099,400
Specie	.....	196,900
Legal tenders	451,000	.....
Deposits	.....	827,100
Circulation	.....	11,000
Total Reserve	.....	.....
Surplus reserves	.....	.....

STATE STOCKS.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thrs	Frid	Sat.
Old Tennessee's	52	47½	49¾	51	51	52
New Tennessee's	52	47½	48¾	50¾	51	52
Old Virginia's	30	30	30	30	30	30
New Virginia's	30	30	30	31	30	30
Missouri 6's	112	110¾	111½	110¾	111	111½
Louisiana 7-3-10's	54	53	54	54¼	54¼	55¾

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thrs	Frid	Sat.
U. S. 6's 1881	101¾	101¾	101¾	101¾	101¾	101¾
U. S. 5's, new	101¾	101¾	101¾	101¾	101¾	101¾
U. S. new 4½'s	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾
U. S. new 4's	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾	112¾
Sterling, sight	485¼	485¼	485¼	485¼	485¼	485¼
Sterling, 60 days	482¾	482¾	482¾	482¾	482¾	482¾
Pacific 6's of '95	125	127	126	126	126	126

DRY GOODS.

Large numbers of buyers are now in the Eastern markets looking after goods and a fair quantity of orders have been placed, but on account of continued cold weather trade has been checked in spring stocks to a certain extent. Winter goods are yet taken in unusually large amounts for the season of the year, but are purchased only for present requirements. The jobbing trade has not been very brisk, yet a steady movement has occurred. As soon as mild weather sets in a large trade in spring fabrics will take place, as stocks throughout the country are not large.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

Trade has undergone but little change in Boston since last week. The trade has averaged fairly well, with prospects of an early improvement in all lines. There was no increase in either the number or amount of orders in New York within the past week for spring goods, the severe weather having affected trade. Business in Phitadelphia was very much interrupted by continued cold weather, the number of orders received being small. Trade will not move briskly until more seasonable weather sets in.

LUMBER.

The enquiry for lumber continues fairly active for the season of the year. No significant changes have occurred in any of the large markets of the country, but indications are that better prices will rule before long, as at points of supply lumber is relatively higher than at the yards here and elsewhere.

HARDWARE, ETC.

There is a very firm tone to the hardware market heavy and light goods of all kinds being in good demand. Iron is firm and steady.

GROCERIES.

The American Grocer says that in New York there has been a better feeling developed in the market for Japan tea. Oolongs are steady. Good teas are in good demand generally. The country does not want common teas. Coffee—The market for Brazil and mild coffee is quiet and rather easy in tone. There has been no quotable change in prices of any sort. Sugars—Muscovados steady and unchanged. Centrifugals steady and firm.

The Central Americans claim greater productiveness for the coffee plant with them tean is the case with the Brazilian planters. Two pounds to the tree is said to be the ordinary yield in Central America, one pound in Brazil, and half a pound in Ceylon. Statistics show that Brazil's coffee crop, worth $75,000,000, is raised on 3,000,000 acres of land, and all testimony of worth goes to show that the coffee regions of Southern Mexico and Central America are of enormous extent, and may be made easily accessible to the coast by means of railways. Mexican coffee is in use to a fair extent in this country.

HOG PRODUCTS.

The market for hog products is very firm at all points. Dressed hogs were a little less firm at the close of the week, but are now steady. Prices in this market, $6.4@6.50.

Special reports to the Cincinnati Price Current show the number of hogs packed from November 1 to date at the six leading cities and to latest mail dates at other points, as follows, as compared with corresponding time last year:

To January 25—	1880-81.	1879-80.
Chicago	2,560,000	2,465,000
Cincinnati	523,000	513,000
St. Louis	420,000	553,000
Indianapolis	388,000	340,000
Milwaukee	300,000	300,000
Louisville	215,670	241,250
Kansas City	300,000	174,000
Madison	.....	118,000
Cedar Rapids	190,582	123,462
St. Joseph, Mo	100,000	90,000
Sabula, Iowa	53,925	53,925
Des Moines, Iowa	70,000	80,000
Keokuk, Iowa	50,000	21,000
Sioux City, Iowa	39,000	30,274
Ottumwa, Iowa	58,000	30,000
Davenport Iowa	17,000	18,000
Galena, Ill	22,000	28,000
Xenia, Ohio	17,842	24,512
Toledo, Ohio	11,017	14,573
Kenton, Ohio	7,000	7,000
Fremont, Ohio	4,359	4,479

HIDES—LEATHER.

The market for hides shows no indications of immediate recovery from the extreme dullness that has prevailed for a length of time.

Leather is steady, but business lacks briskness.

WOOL.

The Boston Wool Circular of Gray, Bewey, Gould & Co. says: The business of the week has been fair, although far from satisfactory. The sales aggregate 1,668,000 lbs, but dealers generally complain of a very dull and quiet market. Manufacturers appear to be as indifferent as ever about future supplies, and do not take hold with any snap.

The sales of the week indicate prices as follows: Ohio, X, XX, XXX and above and No. 1, 45@48c; Michigan X, 42½@43c; combing and delaine, 45@50c; Territory, 19@34c; unwashed and unmerchantable fleece, 22½@38½c; California spring, 24½@38c; California fall, 17@30c; super and X pulled, 35@53½c; scoured, 62½@85c; noils, 33@37c.

OYSTERS.

It was shown at the annual meeting of the oystermen's association at Philadelphia last week that the prospects of the winter supply of bivalves are good. The State of the river, however, which makes the arrival of the oyster boats uncertain, and their voyages expensive through the necessity of hiring tugboats, will keep the prices high. The fresh water oyster for the city market comes almost exclusively from two points on the lower Delaware, one being Morris river cove, on the New Jersey side, and the other nearly opposite. The growing reputation of these and other beds has almost destroyed the trade with the South, from which, some years ago, large shiuments were made. Besides planted grounds, a natural bed, extending nearly from Stony Point to Egg Island, point, is thought to compare favorably in the quality of its oysters with any other in the country. The Philadelphia demand since 1858, when the oystermen's association was organized, has increased 30 per cent.

OLEOMARGERINE.

A leading New York grocery journal quotes oleomargerine regularly, and says the market is firm at 18@20c. Butter in the same market is quoted at 34 for fancy creamery, 25@26c for fine State dairies, 22@24c for good to prime Western dairy, and 20@21c for factory fine.

COTTON.

The first count of the returns relating to the cotton crop of 1880 made by the census office, gives the following result by States as to the number of acres cultivated and the number of bales raised:

Alabama—2,978,390 acres, 682,854 bales.
Arkansas—1,009,607 acres, 260,712 bales.
Florida—244,306 acres, 54,000 bales.
Georgia—2,579,959 acres, 804,211 bales.
Kentucky—175,50 acres, 1,479 bales.
Louisiana—8,553,866 acres, 500,267 bales.
Mississippi—2,019,083 acres, 918,880 bales.
North Carolina—880,192 acres, 383,623 bales.
South Carolina—1,847,304 acres, 516,462 bales.
Tennessee—700,780 acres, 325,053 bales.
Texas—2,126,554 acres, 386,897 bales.
Total—14,004,107 acres, 6,556,767 bales.

These returns are yet subject to revision, as a result of the correspondence, which may increase the figures in the case of any State to the extent of ½ or possibly 1 ₱ cent. Virginia, Missouri and Indian Territory are included in the statement. To this account 505 or 600 bales will have to be added.

The San Francisco Produce Exchange reports the amount of wheat in the State of California reckoning flour at its wheat equivalent, as follows:

	Bushels.
January 1, 1881	33,361,219
July 1, 1880	678,905
January 1, 1880	7,301,329
July 1, 1879	1,158,759

The BLADE'S telegraph dispatch from London this morning, regarding the markets, is as follows:

LONDON, Feb. 15.—The Mark Lane Express says the damage from floods is becoming alarming. Deliveries have been in bad condition on account of the weather. Dry samples have grown scarce and obtain the fullest rate. For the rest trade is gradually weakening. There was a better consumptive demand for flour at last week's reduction, but buyers operate slowly and cautiously. Foreign flour in slow demand, but with signs of improvement should rates moderate. There was rather a brisker business at the decline on Monday, but American advices restricted this, holders preferring to wait. Spot and prospective supplies are ample, consequently it matters little how the American surplus is used. Malting barley weaker and all sorts cheaper. Fine samples are still scarce, but barley generally is difficult to sell. Foreign barley slow, with a dragging trade in favor of buyers. Oats has improved throughout the country, and the whole recent decline was regained. Foreign oats has also improved. In maize there was a very limited spot business at Monday's rates. Stocks were short; off coast cargoes at the end of the week, light. Sales of English wheat during the week, 36,000 qrs at 43s.7d ₱ qr., against 36,161 qrs. at 43s.7d for the corresponding week last year. Imports into the United Kingdom for the week ending Feb. 5, 1,257,320 cwts. wheat and 327,190 cwts. flour.

Floods, both in America and Europe, within the past week, have done a great deal of damage to property, and in the absence of reports from all sections, it may be assumed that some injury has been done to the growing crops along the line of rivers, but thus far nothing has been received to indicate serious results in America, at least, and therefore influences to strengthen the price of grain cannot be based upon damage by ice or water. As we have heretofore said, the natural course of trade is toward a firmer market. While prices may rule somewhat higher in the near future than at present, unless some unforeseen calamity occurs to the crops, a sharp advance cannot be anticipated. The destruction may be more serious from floods than now appears, in which case prices will undoubtedly go higher. Advices from England, in which country supplies are not large, wheat and corn have been firmer, and the Mark Lane Express, a very conservative journal, says recent deliveries of British grain have been in bad condition. Business is dull on account of the disarrangement of transportation facilities by the breaking up of ice and high water, but there is a fairly firm tone to the